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Piyush Goyal concedes
gravity gaffe

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Priyanka Gandhi targets
Modi government with
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Joe Biden fights off
rivals in Democratic
2020 debate

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Sunil Chhetri feels result
against Qatar augurs
well for Indian football

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NEARBY



Chinmayanand quizzed
for seven hours

SHAHJAHANPUR (U.P.)
The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing a student's rape allegation against BJP leader Swami Chinmayanand questioned him for seven hours and sealed the bedroom at his home here, sources said on Friday. The SIT also brought the college student to the former Union Minister's home and continued the search for evidence in her presence.

NORTH • PAGE 6

Govt. has failed to bring
in Uniform Civil Code: SC

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court said the nation has still not endeavoured to secure for its citizens a Uniform Civil Code. The government has till date taken no action, a Bench of Justices Deepak Gupta and Aniruddha Bose observed in a judgment delivered on Friday.

NATION • PAGE 9

Sonia reviews performance
of Congress-ruled States

NEW DELHI
Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Friday chaired a meeting of Chief Ministers of Congress-ruled Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Punjab and Puducherry to review the functioning of the State governments in fulfilling promises made by the party.

NEWS • PAGE 12

312 Indian-origin Sikhs removed from post-militancy 'adverse list'

Home Ministry's list had debarred them, kin from applying for Indian visa

VIJAITA SINGH
VIKAS VASUDEVA
NEW DELHI/ CHANDIGARH

At least 312 Indian-origin Sikhs living in foreign countries have been removed from a Ministry of Home Affairs "adverse list", enabling them to apply for an Indian visa and visit the country, a senior Ministry official said on Friday. Only two persons still remain on the list.

The official said that in future, Sikhs mentioned in the list could eventually apply for registration as Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) after they have applied for a period of two years.

The Congress-led government in Punjab and the opposition Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) both claimed credit for the Centre's move.

"The Government of India has reviewed the 'adverse list' containing 314 foreign nationals belonging to the Sikh community and brought it down to just two," the Home Ministry official said. The two cases where individuals are still on the adverse list pertain to overstaying of visa.

An official explained that in the 1980s, when Sikh militancy was at its peak, many members of the community in India and abroad were influenced by anti-India propaganda.

Off the blacklist

Names of 312 Indian-origin Sikhs were removed from a list that prevented them from getting Indian visa



Based on intelligence inputs, the Home Ministry was maintaining an "adverse list" of Sikh persons living abroad

The list was prepared after the anti-Sikh riots in 1984, following which many young men from the community took part in secessionist movements

Indian missions abroad used to decline visa to persons on the list. Many in the list live in the U.S., the U.K., Germany and Canada — in most cases with foreign citizenship

"Some Sikhs fled India to escape the authorities, acquired foreign nationality and took asylum outside the country. They were placed in the adverse list till 2016, making them ineligible to avail visa services to visit India," said the official.

Missions informed

The list prepared by the intelligence agencies was available with all Indian missions and was a major roadblock for persons seeking visas even for their family members who were not on the list.

"This practice has also been discontinued," the official said.

"Consequently, all Indian missions have been advised to grant appropriate visa to all categories of asylees and

derivative asylees (family members) whose names do not figure in the Central Adverse List, in line with the procedure followed for other categories of applicants of that nationality," said the official.

"This review is a continuous and dynamic process and part of a regular exercise. Such a review will afford an opportunity to such Sikh foreign nationals to visit India, meet their family members and reconnect to their roots," said the official.

Amarinder's welcome

Responding to the Centre's decision, Punjab Chief Minister Capt. Amarinder Singh said his government had worked actively with the Centre for scrapping the list.

"Every Sikh has the right to visit Punjab and Darbar Sahib, including those who had gone astray in the surcharged atmosphere of the 1980s and 1990s, particularly in the wake of the Operation Bluestar and the anti-Sikh riots," he said.

"Conceding the demand and argument of the State government, the Centre has virtually done away with the list that comprised 314 Sikh foreign nationals, with only two names of men not connected with Punjab now left on it. The Central government has also discontinued the practice of maintenance of local adverse lists by the respective Indian missions in various countries," Capt. Singh said.

Appreciating the Centre's decision, the Shiromani Akali Dal said the efforts of the party and its president Sukhbir Singh Badal had yielded positive results.

"We welcome the decision. Our party president had taken up the issue with the Centre and we are happy that the demand has been accepted," said Daljeet Singh Cheema, former Minister and Akali Dal spokesperson. "We request that the names of the remaining two should also be dropped from the list," he added.

CONTINUED ON • PAGE 12

Odd-even scheme back in Delhi from November 4-15

Part of a seven-point action plan to combat air pollution

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The odd-even vehicle rationing scheme will return to the Capital for the third time in November, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said here on Friday.

The scheme, Mr. Kejriwal announced at a press conference, will be enforced from November 4 to 15 as part of a seven-point action plan mainly aimed at combating the detrimental effect that stubble and residual crop burning in neighbouring States such as Punjab and Haryana has on the Capital's ambient air quality in winter months.

The scheme entails allowing private vehicles whose registration number ends in even digits to ply on even dates and those with odd last digits to ply only on odd dates, with violators drawing a ₹2,000 fine. Women drivers and two-wheeler riders were exempted from the scheme on both the previous occasions.

"Studies conducted on the effect of the scheme say that when it is enforced, air pollution in Delhi is reduced by 10%-13%," the Chief Minister said.

Oppn. flays move

The announcement triggered an immediate attack on the Aam Aadmi Party Delhi government from the Opposi-



The vehicle rationing scheme will return to the Capital for the third time. • FILE PHOTO: SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

tion BJP, with its Delhi unit chief Manoj Tiwari accusing Mr. Kejriwal of "harassing" the people of Delhi through the implementation of the scheme. Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari also reacted from Nagpur stating that there was "no such need" for the move.

Other measures

The Chief Minister also announced other measures of the 'Parali Pradushan' plan such as the distribution of free anti-pollution masks to citizens.

"The Delhi government will make large-scale procurement of around 50-60 lakh of the best quality N-95 anti-pollution masks which will be distributed among the people in October, before the spike in air pollution the next month," he said.

Other components of the seven-point plan include mechanised sweeping and wa-

ter sprinkling on roads, tree plantation, and special measures to be put in place at 12 pollution hotspots in Delhi.

Mr. Kejriwal also appealed to Delhiites to avoid bursting crackers on Diwali in late October, and urged them to make more use of public transport.

The Delhi government, he said, will also hold a mega laser show on the eve of Diwali. While the burning of waste and garbage will be checked by deploying two 'environmental marshals' in each municipal ward, the Delhi government, will also set up a dedicated control room to monitor complaints related to air pollution.

The announcement comes a day after the Chief Minister met environment experts for suggestions on combating the air pollution spike the Capital faces in winter.

SEE ALSO • PAGE 5

CBI summons former Kolkata police chief

HC withdraws protection from arrest

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court on Friday vacated the interim order providing protection from arrest to IPS officer and former Kolkata Police Commissioner Rajeev Kumar by the CBI in the Saradha scam.

Within hours of the order, a team of CBI officers arrived at Mr. Kumar's residence at 34 Park Street and issued summons asking him to appear before the investigating agency on Saturday.

According to sources, Mr. Kumar, who is serving as Additional Director General, CID, is on leave.

Delivering the order, Justice Madhumati Mitra said a "blanket protection of not arresting is not available in law and would amount to unnecessary interference with the investigation".



Rajeev Kumar

The court observed that counsel for the petitioner had failed to substantiate that the investigating agency [CBI in this case] was harassing him or trying to injure his reputation.

Justice Mitra said the allegation that Mr. Kumar had been singled out cannot be admitted before the court, since officers superior in rank to him had been interrogated by the CBI.

CONTINUED ON • PAGE 12

Setting the bar high



Aspirants undergo a physical test on the last day of an Army recruitment drive in Patna, Bihar, on Friday. • RANJEET KUMAR

Shivpal's disqualification from U.P. House sought

SP moves plea under anti-defection law

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LUCKNOW

The Samajwadi Party has moved an application seeking the disqualification of Shivpal Singh Yadav from the Uttar Pradesh Assembly under the anti-defection law.

Mr. Shivpal, the estranged uncle of SP president Akhilesh Yadav, was elected from the Jaswantnagar Assembly constituency in the 2017 State elections.

New party

He then floated a new party, Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia), and had contested the recent Lok Sabha elections on its symbol.

The application from the leader of the SP in the Assembly, Ram Govind Chaudhary, has been received and a letter seeking Mr. Shivpal's reply has been issued, sources in the Assembly said.



Shivpal Yadav

Speaker Hriday Narain Dixit will take a decision on the matter after receiving Mr. Shivpal's reply, they said.

PSP(L) spokesman C.P. Rai said before contesting the Lok Sabha elections, Mr. Shivpal had informed the Speaker about his new party, and he will reiterate the same in his reply.

Mr. Shivpal had contested the 2019 Lok Sabha polls from the Firozabad seat.

Rajasthan launches information portal

In a first for a State, citizens can access details pertaining to 13 departments

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

In a pioneering step, the first-ever public information portal was launched in Rajasthan on Friday promising to provide information about government authorities and departments suo motu to the public in the true spirit of the Right To Information Act. The portal has brought yet another distinction to Rajasthan, where the RTI movement had started in 1990s.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot inaugurated the portal at B.M. Birla Auditorium here in the presence of former Chief Information Commissioner Wajahat Habibullah, former Law Commission



Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, second from left, inaugurating the portal on Friday. • PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

chairman Justice A.P. Shah and a galaxy of RTI activists, including Magsaysay Award winner Aruna Roy.

The State government collaborated with the civil society groups to develop the portal, the first of its kind in

the country, initially giving information pertaining to 13 departments on a single platform.

In his inaugural address, Mr. Gehlot said the new web portal, named the Jan Soochna Portal-2019, would

ensure compliance with Section 4(2) of the RTI Act mandating the public authorities to disclose information in the public domain, so that the people need not file applications under the law to obtain information. "I have a sentimental attachment with the RTI Act... I attended the first dharna seeking this right 20 years ago," he said.

In a veiled reference to the RTI Amendment Bill passed by the Parliament recently, Mr. Gehlot said attempts to weaken the statute would only erode the resolve to bring transparency and accountability in administration.

CONTINUED ON • PAGE 12

Tragedy strikes Ganesh idol immersions

33, including two minors, drown in M.P., Maharashtra and Delhi

STAFF REPORTER
BHOPAL

Thirty-three people, most of them in their 20s, drowned during the immersion of Ganesh idols in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Delhi, officials said on Friday. Some of the dead were minors, they said.

In Madhya Pradesh's capital Bhopal, 11 people died when two overcrowded country boats carrying a 20-ft. tall idol for immersion in Lower Lake in Khatlapura capsized. Eight were rescued. Seventeen people were on the boats when the incident took place around 4.30 a.m., Bhopal Collector Tharun Kumar Pithode said.

In Maharashtra, at least 18 people drowned during the immersion of Ganesh idols. Four people drowned in



Rescue workers search the Lower Lake in Bhopal where two overcrowded boats capsized on Friday. • A.M. FARUQUI

Amravati, three in Ratnagiri, two each in Nashik, Sindhudurg and Satara, one each in Thane, Dhule, Buldhana, Akola and Bhandara.

Two men and two women drowned in the Yamuna in Delhi during Ganesh idol immersion, officials said.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath ordered a magisterial inquiry and announced a compensation of

₹11 lakh each for the families of the victims.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted: "The capsizing of a boat at Khatlapura Ghat in Bhopal is saddening. In this hour of grief, our thoughts are with the families of those who lost their lives."

SEE ALSO • PAGE 3

LIVED TO TELL THE TALE • PAGE 9

DUSU polls: ABVP wins 3 posts, NSUI 1

SIDHARTH RAVI
NEW DELHI

In a repeat of last year's results, the RSS-backed Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad won three seats in the Delhi University Students' Union elections, while the Congress-backed National Students' Union of India won one seat.

ABVP's Akshit Dahiya won the post of DUSU president, trouncing NSUI's Chetna Tyagi by a margin of 19,039 votes.

The ABVP winners took out a victory procession to the university's Arts Faculty, where they shouted slogans near the bust of Swami Vivekananda.

DETAILS ON • PAGE 3

Air quality of Delhi-NCR			
Delhi	86	Gurugram	56
Ghaziabad	79	Faridabad	-
Noida	79	Greater Noida	84
0-50 51-100 101-200			
Good Satisfactory Moderate			
201-300 301-400 >401			
Poor Very poor Severe			
AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) SOURCE: CPCB			

DELHI TODAY

Music: Second day of the Carnatic music festival will feature a flute recital by Kalaimamani Sikkil Mala Chandrasekhar from Chennai, accompanied by G. Raghavendra Prasath on the violin and Kumbakonam N Padmanaban on the mridangam and P. Adhitya Narayan on the kanjira at C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, Indian International Centre (IIC), 6:15 p.m.

Music: To celebrate the arrival of Navratri with Bandishes on Durga and Gujarati Sant Vani, a musical evening is organised. The event will feature a vocal recital by Subhadra Desai from Delhi at Lecture Room - II, Basement (Annexe), 6:30 p.m.

Exhibition: "Inner Expression", a solo painting exhibition by Subrata Ghosh at Convention Centre Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Rumination Of An Unfettered Mind" a mixed media on paper by Laxmi Gupta at Triveni Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Screenings: "Himeyuri - Untold History Unfolded in Okinawa", a Japanese film with English subtitles will be screened at The Japan Foundation, 5A Ring Road, Lajpat Nagar IV, 2 p.m.

(Mail your listings for this column at cityeditor@delhi@thehindu.co.in)

Land pooling policy: DDA seeks govt.'s help for land verification

Revenue Department has been asked to provide nodal officers for the purpose

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

In a bid to take the land pooling policy ahead, the Delhi Development Authority has asked the Delhi government for assistance on verification of the land parcels registered under the policy, said DDA Vice-Chairman Tarun Kapoor on Friday.

With over 6,400 hectares of land registered under the policy, the city government's Revenue Department has been asked to provide nodal officers for the purpose of authenticating the land parcels so that the various sectors can be developed, Mr. Kapoor said, while speaking at a conference on the policy here.

Mr. Kapoor also added that for the first few sectors to be developed, the urban body is willing to "hand-hold developers and consortium" so that model sectors can be developed. "We have reached a stage where farmers have voluntarily come forward and participated in the policy by



(From left) L-G Anil Bajjal, Union Minister Hardeep Puri and DDA Vice-Chairman Tarun Kapoor at an event in New Delhi on Friday. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

registering their respective land parcels. Now we need developers to come forth as well. For the first one or two sectors, we propose to do some hand-holding so that in the initial sectors the consortium is formed at the earliest," he said.

The consortium can only be formed after the Delhi government verifies the land parcels registered. Under the policy, a minimum of 70% of contiguous land is required to be eligible for development. The online portal for the land pooling policy, which was ap-

proved by the Centre in October last year, was launched in February this year.

'Paradigm shift'

L-G Anil Bajjal, who is also the Chairman of the DDA, called the land pooling policy a "paradigm shift in the planned development of Delhi".

"Optimal use of land resources is required and under the policy there will be integration between built areas and green areas. Each sector will be declared as a zero-waste area and conducive walking areas with access to

Under the [land pooling] policy...each sector will be declared as a zero-waste area and conducive walking areas with access to public transport will be available," said Mr. Bajjal while speaking at the event.

ANIL BAJJAL
Lieutenant-Governor

public transport will be available," said Mr. Bajjal while speaking at the event.

Union Minister Hardeep Puri, who was also present at the event, said: "The land pooling policy is a transformative step in improving India's Capital. Land is a scarce resource and the new megapolis that is in the process of being constructed has to be built of the highest sustainable international standards. There is a huge rush of people coming forth for the policy which only means increased economic activity, jobs and housing."

Rithala-Narela corridor likely to get nod soon: Puri

'Approval to prove useful for land pooling'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

While stating that improved connectivity to areas like Narela is essential for implementing policies like land pooling, Union Minister Hardeep Puri on Friday said that approval for the Rithala-Narela corridor under Delhi Metro's Phase IV project is likely to happen "over the next few months".

"I am very confident that connectivity to those parts of the city - for instance I have in mind Narela which was one of the three corridors not covered under the Phase IV approval - will improve. I am told that we should be able to get those approvals very quickly over the next few months," the Minister said.

In March this year, the Union Cabinet had approved three of the six corridors, which were approved by the Delhi Cabinet earlier under the Phase-IV project of the Delhi Metro.

The Rithala-Narela, Lajpat Nagar to Saket G-block and Inderlok to Indrapastha cor-

ridors were the ones which failed to receive the Union Cabinet's nod while the three others approved were projected as the ones which were likely to have a "higher ridership that would address congestion and pollution issues".

'Win-win situation'

While hinting at "hiccups and difficulties" faced by the Centre with the Delhi government over conditions imposed pertaining to the proposal, Mr. Puri added that once approved, policies like land pooling will be a "win-win" situation for all.

Lack of connectivity to areas like Narela have also been cited as reasons behind the low response to the Delhi Development Authority's housing scheme, by senior officials of the urban body and other home buyers.

More than half of the flats allotted to home buyers under this year's housing scheme were surrendered to the DDA with lack of public transport to Narela emerging as a major issue.

Temple row: SC questions maintainability of petition

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday questioned the maintainability of a plea seeking permission for re-construction of Guru Ravidas Temple in Tughlaqabad forest area here that was demolished by the Delhi Development Authority on the apex court's direction.

A Bench of Justices R. Banumathi and A.S. Bopanna questioned as to how the court could entertain a petition filed under Article 32 of the Constitution seeking permission to construct a temple demolished on the orders of the apex court.

'Right to worship'

The petition was filed by two former Members of Parliament, Ashok Tanwar and Pradeep Jain Aditya. The petitioners have sought enforcement of their right to worship, which, they alleged, "is being denied to them due to demolition" of the temple and 'Samadhi' in Tughlaqabad.

Two more multilevel parking lots in Gurugram

Combined capacity will be 1,275 cars

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

Two multilevel parking facilities, will soon come up at the congested Sadar Bazar area in Old City.

Haryana Public Works Department Minister Rao Narbir Singh on Friday laid the foundation stones for the two parking facilities, which have a combined capacity of 1,275 cars.

Built at a cost of ₹150 crore, a six-level parking facility will be constructed in Kaman Sarai near Mahavir Chowk with the capacity of 1,000 cars. Having a total area of 8,332 sq m, the parking will house shops, banquet halls, a three-screen multiplex, a gymnasium and a food and badminton court. The construction cost on the project will be recovered in a span of 15 years. Also, the go-

vernment need not bear the maintenance cost for the facility.

Similarly, a six-level parking facility will be constructed towards the west of Sadar Bazar on Old Railway Road for 275 vehicles, at a veterinary hospital site. The facility with three levels of underground parking space will cover an area of 3,186 sqm. It will house a showroom, retail shops, badminton and food courts.

Mr. Singh said both the projects would be financially viable and the cost incurred would be fully recovered. He said these would be ready in two years and help deal with the problem relating to parking space in the Old City. He added that the facilities will also help reduce traffic jams caused due to vehicles parked on roads.

Foreign national looted in city

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Two unidentified men looted \$1,000 from a foreign national in GK on Thursday, the police said.

Naved, who hails from Afghanistan, had come to India on a tourist visa on Monday. He was on the way to his relative's place when he was looted. CCTV footage is being scanned to identify the accused, the police added.

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION, BEED
E-TENDER NOTICE NO.BEED / 13 OF 2019-20

E-Tenders for (25) Works in B-1 form is invited by the Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, Beed (Phone No. 02442-222474) from the registered Contractors in appropriate class of Public Works Department of Govt. of Maharashtra for the improvement roads/repair of buildings/construction of new buildings in Tal. Beed/Georai/Wadwani Dist. Beed.

The details can be viewed and downloaded from following website.

www.mahapwd.com.
https://mahatenders.gov.in

sd/-
Executive Engineer
Public works Division, Beed

DGIPR/2019/2020/2926

जिला निर्वाचन कार्यालय, भिवानी
प्रेस नोट
हरियाणा विधानसभा आम चुनाव, 2019 के लिये ई-टेंडर, स्टेशनरी, सी.सी.टी.वी. कैमरे की ई-टेंडरिंग बारे।

हरियाणा विधानसभा आम चुनाव, 2019 के लिये जिला प्रशासन को ई-टेंडर, स्टेशनरी, सी.सी.टी.वी. कैमरे की आवश्यकता होगी। जिसके लिये ई-टेंडर की प्रक्रिया अपनाई जायेगी। इच्छुक कर्म दिनांक 16.09.2019 को साय 04:00 बजे तक <https://tenders.bhi.nic.in> वेब साईट पर अपना टेंडर अपलोड करवाना सुनिश्चित करें। इसके बाद Bid स्वीकृत नहीं की जायेगी।

क्र. उपमुख्य एवं जिला निर्वाचन अधिकारी, भिवानी

Prdh 78682

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
Opened E-tender based on Two Packet system (Tender notice No. M/C&W/26/2019-20 dt. 09-09-2019) are invited by Divisional Rail Manager/ Mech./C&W/Varanasi/North Eastern Railway for and on behalf of President of India for following work:-

Description of work: AMC of Caterpillar make engine fitted in 04 Nos. BG DEMU DPC for a period of 02 Years of Varanasi Division. Approx. Value (Rs.): ₹ 1,90,63,209.44, EMD Money (Rs.): ₹ 2,45,300/-, Cost of Tender Forms : ₹ 5,000/-, Period of work: 02 Years from the date of commencement , Validity of offer: 60 days

- Date and time of closing of E-Tender: 10-10-2019 at 14:30 hrs.
- Date and time of opening of E-Tender: 10-10-2019 at 15:00 hrs.
- Tenderers may submit their offers online up to 10-10-2019at 14:30hrs.
- Please go to the website www.ireps.gov.in to see the complete details and upload the tender.

Sr. DME/C&W/ Varanasi
CPRO/Yantrik-112
About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No.: 09794845955

Never Fraud for roof and foot boards.

Government of Jharkhand
Dr. RamDayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute, Schedule Tribe, Schedule Caste, Minorities and OBC Welfare Department Ranchi-834008

Ref.no. 1063 Ranchi, Dated 11.09.2019

Expression of Interest

This institute intend to invite **Publishers (Self & authorised distributor) for the empanelment & procurement of books for TRI, Ranchi** library during the current financial year.

Brief of Empanelment Process: TRI, Ranchi will be organising Book Fair in which Publishers have to participate & submit their books on subjects mentioned below before the Selection Committee of TRI, Ranchi during book fair at TRI, Ranchi. A Selection Committee of TRI, Ranchi will select/shortlist books from publishers during Book Fair as per below mentioned subjects. Post short listing of books by selection committee, a empanelment process will get initiate by the institution for empanelling publishers (*referred as 'Agencies')* for the period of one year with TRI, Ranchi.

Interested Publishers/Book Shops may submit their terms and conditions along with PAN and maximum discount they can give on books in the sealed cover on or before 22nd October 2019 by 4.30 PM in the office of **Dr. RamDayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute (TRI), Morabadi, Ranchi-834008**. The envelope should be superscribed **"EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR SUPPLY OF BOOKS"**. The sealed cover will be opened on 25th October 2019 at 3.30 PM

- Books concerning Humanities i.e Anthropology, Sociology, History, Psychology, Economics, Statistics, Tribal Literatures etc.
- Old Reference Books/ Monographs/Encyclopaedias on Tribes.
- Tribal Livelihood and Development
- Displacement, Rehabilitation and Resettlement
- PESA, Forest Right Act. and other laws related to tribals.
- Socio-economic Planning and Evaluation of tribals schemes and project
- Museology, Art & Craft and material culture of tribals.
- Indigenous Knowledge and Intangible Cultural Heritage
- Gazetteers
- **Other books of tribal interest.**

TRI, Ranchi reserves all rights to accept or reject all or any of the EOI's at any stage without assigning any reasons. TRI, Ranchi also reserves the right to engage/empanel one or more firm depending on requirements.

sd/-
Director

PR216680 (Welfare)19-20thD **जिसे अबतक ना समझे, वो कहानी हूँ मैं, मुझे बर्बाद मत करो पाजी हूँ मैं।**

झारखण्ड सरकार
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, सरायकेला
"शुद्धि पत्र"
P.R. No-215148 (Drinking Water and Sanitation) 19-20thD

एतद द्वारा सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल, सरायकेला द्वारा प्रकाशित निविदा सूचना संख्या-DWSD/SKL/10/2019-20 दिनांक-22.08.2019 की वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि एवं समय, प्री बीड मीटिंग की तिथि एवं समय, बीड प्राप्त की तिथि एवं समय, बैंक गारंटी एवं परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य जमा करने की तिथि एवं समय, निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय को निम्नांकित अनुसार संशोधित समझा जाय शेष यथावत रहेगी।

	पूर्व की तिथि	संशोधित तिथि
वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि एवं समय	30.08.2019, अपराह्न 04.00 बजे तक	06.09.2019, अपराह्न 04.00 बजे तक
प्री बीड मीटिंग की तिथि एवं समय	06.09.2019, 12.30 बजे अपराह्न। अभियंता प्रमुख का कार्यालय पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग, नेपाल हाउस, राँची	12.09.2019, 12.30 बजे अपराह्न। अभियंता प्रमुख का कार्यालय पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग, नेपाल हाउस, राँची
बीड प्राप्त की तिथि एवं समय	20.09.2019, 01.00 बजे अपराह्न तक।	28.09.2019, 01.00 बजे अपराह्न तक।
बैंक गारंटी एवं परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य जमा करने की तिथि एवं समय	21.09.2019, 01.00 बजे अपराह्न तक पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल, सरायकेला।	अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता अंवल, चाईबासा,क्षेत्रीय मुख्य अभियन्ता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग, राँची प्रदेश राँची झारखण्ड में।
निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	23.09.2019, 04.00 बजे, अपराह्न	30.09.2019, 04.00 बजे, अपराह्न

जिसे अबतक ना समझे, वो कहानी हूँ मैं, मुझे बर्बाद मत करो पाजी हूँ मैं।

P.R.216711 Drinking Water and Sanitation(19-20thD)

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल, सरायकेला

HOME DEPARTMENT (PORTS & TRANSPORT)
MAHARASHTRA MARITIME BOARD
Indian Mercantile Chambers, 3rd Floor, 14 Ramjibhai Kamani Marg, Ballard Estate, Mumbai - 400 001
Tel.: 022-22658375, Fax : 022-22614331
Website: <https://mahammb.maharashtra.gov.in> Email : ceommb@gmail.com

E-Tender Notice - (Year 2019-2020)

Main Portal: <https://mahatenders.gov.in>
Departmental Portal: www.mahammb.maharashtra.gov.in

Digitally signed E-Tender for following work is invited by Chief Executive Officer, Maharashtra Maritime Board, Mumbai, from Registered with Government of Maharashtra in appropriate class and having experience in execution of Marine related civil works, for following work in B1 Tender Form.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Cost of Tender in Rs.	Earnest Money Amount in Rs.	Blank Tender form amount in Rs.	Time limit for Completion of Work
1.	Construction of Retaining Wall to Bunder road from Gogate Clinic to Vijaydurg Bunder at Vijaydurg, Tal. Devgad Dist. Sindhudurg.	2,56,45,764/-	1,50,000/-	2,360/-	12 Months (Including Monsoon)

The details can be viewed online and downloaded directly from the Government of Maharashtra E-Tendering Portal <https://mahatenders.gov.in> on sub Portal of Home Department www.mahammb.maharashtra.gov.in from 11.09.2019 at 10.00 hours (IST) onwards.

The right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason is reserved.

sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Maharashtra Maritime Board, Mumbai.

DGIPR/2019/2020/2908

Govt. of Jharkhand
Jharkhand Industrial Infrastructure Development Company Ltd.
(A Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking)
3rd Floor, New RIADA Building, Industrial Estate, Namkum, Ranchi – 834010

Recruitment Notice

Jharkhand Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation has been established to create, develop and maintain infrastructure facilities for systematic growth of industrial units in the State of Jharkhand. JIIDCO now seeks to hire professional on contractual basis. Jharkhand Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation with requisite qualifications to fill up the post as mentioned below.

Sl No.	Designation	No. of Post	Reservation Category	Qualification and Experience	Remuneration per Month (Approximate)	Max. Age allowed as on 31 st July, 2019
1	Company Secretary	1	Un Reserved	Essential Qualification: Candidate should be Members of ICSI (The Institute of Company Secretaries of India) with Graduation. Minimum 5 (Five) Years post qualification experience as a CS member of ICSI. Desirable Qualification: Candidates having LLB / CA/ ICWA shall be preferred	In the pay Scale of 9300 - 34800/ grade pay - 4200/ Level-9 as per 7 th pay commission (Total Gross Approx. emoluments will be 73000/-)	Should not exceed 45 years as on July 31 st , 2019.

1 Reservations as per Govt. of Jharkhand policy shall be applicable.
2 Candidates need to produce original qualification certificates and proof of previous employment details at the time of interview/ skill test. Applicants shall have to furnish all required documents in originals as required by JIIDCO from time to time.
3 The contract shall not confer any right or claim of extension / absorption in the Corporation.

HOW TO APPLY: Interested candidates may send their applications on A-4 size plain paper as per the given format. The format and other terms & conditions may be downloaded from Website: www.jharkhandindustry.gov.in In duly filled application form with relevant documents in support of their age, qualification and experience along with a Bank Draft of Rs 200/- (Rs 100 for ST/SC) drawn in favor of JIIDCO, payable at Ranchi & a self-addressed envelope should reach the office of **JHARKHAND INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (JIIDCO)**, (A Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking), 3rd Floor, New RIADA Building, Industrial Estate, Namkum, Ranchi - 834010 (Jharkhand), on or before 04.10.2019 at 5.00 PM. The application shall be sent through only Speed Post/ Registered post or Courier only.

sd/-
Managing Director
JIIDCO, Ranchi

PR 216816 Industries(19-20)D **बूढ़ - बूढ़ नहीं बरतेंगे तो बूढ़ को तरसेंगे**

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Jharkhand Undertaking)
3rd Floor, Pragati Sadan, Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi-834001
Ph no. - 0651-2225878, E-Mail Id- juidcolimited@gmail.com
CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752,

e-Procurement Notice
Tender Notice
NIT No.: JUIDCO/NIT/DHN-WSS-II/2019/306
Date: 12.09.2019

	1.	Name of the work	Augmentation and Strengthening of Dhanbad Water Supply Scheme Phase II under Dhanbad Municipal Corporation
	2.	Mode of Bid Submission	e-tendering (http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in)
	3.	Estimated Cost	Rs 405.10,49,652/-
	4.	Tender Fee and Bid Security	Tender document fee: - Rs 25,000/- (Twenty Five Thousand Only)- Non Refundable. Bid Security: Rs 4,06,00,000/- (Rupees Four Crore Six Lakh Only).
	5.	Date & Time of Publication of Tender on Website	13.09.2019, 17:00 Hrs
	6.	Last Date & Time of submission of pre-bid queries	19.09.2019, 17:00 Hrs
	7.	Date & Time of pre-bid meeting	20.09.2019, 11:00 Hrs
	8.	Last Date & Time of Bid	11.10.2019, 17:00 Hrs
	9.	Last Date & Time of Submission of Tender Fee & EMD	12.10.2019, 17:00 Hrs
	10.	Date & Time of Bid Opening	12.10.2019, 17:30 Hrs
	11.	Bid Submission Address	Jharkhand Urban Infrastructure Development Company Limited, 3 rd Floor, Pragati Sadan, Kutchery Road, Ranchi - 834001.
	12.	Helpline No. of e-Procurement Cell	+91 651 2225878

Note: Only e-tenders will be accepted.
Further details are available on Jharkhand Government e-procurement website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>

बूढ़ - बूढ़ नहीं बरतेंगे तो बूढ़ को तरसेंगे

sd/-
Project Director (Technical)
PR 216789 (Urban Development)19-20thD JUIDCO Ltd., Ranchi

IN BRIEF

Man held for duping CAG official of ₹2 lakh
NEW DELHI
A 24-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly duping a CAG official of ₹2 lakh by making fraudulent transactions from his bank account, the police said on Friday. The accused, identified as Pradeep Mandal, who hails from Jharkhand, was nabbed from Shastri Park metro station, the police said. PTI

Two held for snatching at railway stations
NEW DELHI
Two men have been arrested for allegedly targeting passengers at railway stations and snatching their valuables, the police said on Friday. The accused, Bablu (22) and Suraj (22), were nabbed from Okhla Railway Station, they said. One gold chain and cash have been recovered from the accused, they added. PTI

Seven held for firing in air to welcome criminal

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
Seven persons, who had gathered to celebrate the return of a criminal from jail, have been arrested for allegedly firing in the air in Dwarka's Mohan Garden, the police said on Friday. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka) Anto Alphonse said that the accused have been identified as Rohit, Amit Maan, Kuldeep, Kashim, Ravi, Bablu Jha and Rajesh. They were among the 40-50 people who had gathered and indulged in celebratory firing upon return of Gagan Dhingra of Mohan Garden, who was released on bail in an attempt to murder case on Wednesday, the police said. According to the police, an information was received on Wednesday around 11p.m. that people are firing in the air. They reached the spot and managed to arrest seven from the group while three, who were on a luxury bike, managed to flee. They were all associates of Dhingra, the police said, adding that no injuries were reported in the incident.

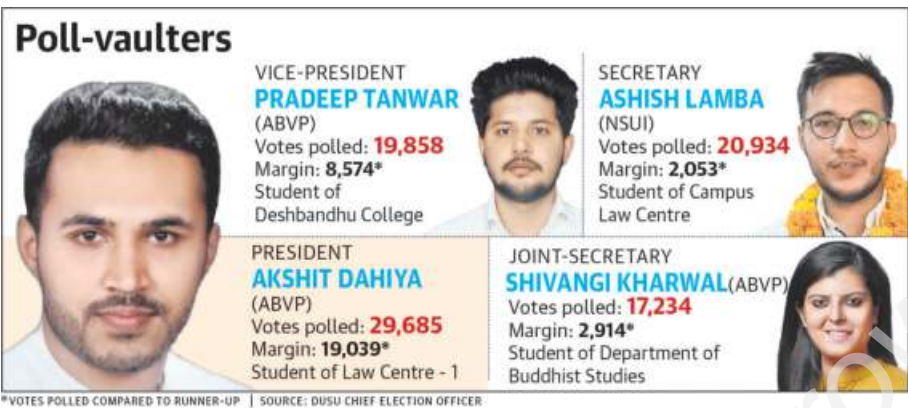
Allocate funds for foreign PG students: AIIMS RDA

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI
Resident Doctors' Association (RDA) of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) has written to the Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan seeking allocation of funds to foreign doctors doing their post-graduation at the institute and their inclusion in the employees health service scheme. While PGI, Chandigarh, had issued orders for release of stipend to these students admitted through open competition at par with Indian students, AIIMS is yet to make any formal move. The RDA has noted that despite multiple bilateral deliberations between the Governments of India and Nepal for the allocation of stipends for post-graduate residents doctors at AIIMS, no fruitful outcome has come so far. Amarinder Singh, president, RDA noted that foreign national resident doctors work at par with their Indian counterparts not only in terms of patients service, but also academically and in research throughout their tenure of three years. It is unfair to see these doctors, who are giving their best to the institute, not being compensated. They aren't even given enough money to make ends meet, he added.

DUSU polls see a repeat of last year with ABVP winning 3 seats

NSUI manages to secure post of secretary; AISA ends up third on all four posts

SIDHARTH RAVI
NEW DELHI
In a repeat of last year's results, the RSS backed Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) won three out of four seats in the Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) panel elections, while the Congress backed National Students' Union of India (NSUI) won one seat, university appointed election officials announced on Friday. Standing on top of the Vivekananda statue at the Arts Faculty after a victory procession across North Campus, 20-year-old Akshit Dahiya, who was declared president, said: "This is not the victory of any individual but that of workers of the ABVP." Having won the presidency with a margin of 19,039 votes, ABVP's State secretary, Sidharth Yadav claimed that this was the highest victory margin ever since direct elections started in the union. Apart from Mr. Dahiya, the post of vice-president was won by Pradeep Tanwar, a student of Deshbandhu College and the post of joint-secretary went to Shivangi



Kharwal of the Department of Buddhist studies. The group, in its manifesto had promised that it would work towards making improvements on five fronts – campus reforms, curriculum, admissions, examinations and results. It also vowed to make the union more accessible to students. Meanwhile, in a narrow victory, Ashish Lamba of the NSUI beat Yogit Rathi of the ABVP by a margin of 2,053 votes. Commenting on the single victory, NSUI's Delhi president, Akshay Lakra pointed out that Mr. Rathi was part of the Ramjas College Union when the violence broke out on the campus in 2017 and alleged that he was "one of the main perpetrators." Through this victory, students of the university had sent a message that they are against such violence, he said. **AISA's vote share** Left wing All India Students' Association (AISA) came in third on all four posts. The group claimed that it had increased its vote share on at least three of the posts and had consequently established itself as the only credible opposition to the ABVP

Teachers' front ups the ante on non-release of college funds

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
Several teachers of Delhi University under the banner National Democratic Teachers' Front (NDTF) held a protest demonstration in front of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence on Friday to draw attention to issues faced by the 28 colleges governed by the Delhi government due to non-release of funds. In a statement, the group said that instead of improving the status of higher education, the government is neglecting it. Due to lack of financial support, salaries and arrears of employees have not been paid in these colleges, affecting the standard of education. It also attacked the stoppage of funds over the formation of the governing body, alleging that it was an attempt to induct "politically motivated" members to the body. "Government must immediately release the grant to 12 fully funded colleges and sanction EWS teaching posts as well," said Rasal Singh, member of the academic council.

2 students killed, 3 hurt as car collides with bus

Accident took place at Yamuna e-way
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NOIDA
Two college students were killed and three others injured when their speeding car collided with a state transport bus on the Yamuna Expressway in Greater Noida on Friday evening, the police said. The students, including two girls and three boys, were coming to Noida from Agra when the accident occurred at around 6.30 p.m., a senior officer said. "The speeding car lost control, jumped the divider on the highway and landed on the opposite lane where it collided head-on with a bus," SP, Greater Noida, Ranvijay Singh said. "Two students, a girl and a boy, were killed in the collision. The other three have been hospitalised where they are undergoing treatment," Singh added. Shivani Yadav, a journalism student and Owais Chaudhary, a second year B.Tech student were killed in the accident, the police said, adding that Sai Sharma, Shaurya Gupta and Aditya Saxena were undergoing treatment at a hospital. All of them were from Amity University, they said.

Unnao survivor completes recording her statement

Temporary court set up at AIIMS
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI
Unnao rape survivor on Friday completed recording her testimony at a temporary court set up at the AIIMS hospital in the case of alleged sexual assault on her by expelled BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar in 2017. The woman deposed on a wheelchair before District Judge Dharmesh Sharma during 'in-camera' proceedings held at the seminar hall of the Jai Prakash Narayan Apex Trauma Centre, a lawyer privy to the proceedings said.

Women among four drowned in Yamuna during idol immersion

Victims are all students of Delhi University colleges

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
Four persons, including two women, who had gone for idol immersion, drowned in the Yamuna in outer north Delhi's Alipur on Thursday night. Though the police and civil defence volunteers had allegedly asked them not to bath in the river, they bluffed their way into the waterbody. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer North) Gaurav Sharma said that the deceased were identified as Umesh Yadav (20), Nikit (21), Priyanka (20), and Pinki (21). They were all residents of Nangloi's Nihal Vihar and students of Delhi University colleges. The police said that they received a PCR call around 9 p.m. informing that four persons had drowned in the Yamuna. When the police reached the spot, they were informed that a group of about 30 people had performed puja at their residence and came for idol immersion. Thereafter, someone suggested that they must take a dip in the Yamuna for completion of rituals and they proceeded to Thoker number 17. "They were stopped at Shani temple and Bakhtawarpur by the police and the civil defence volunteers, but they convinced them saying that they will not enter the river," Mr. Sharma said. After sometime, the police received a call from one Purnima who told them that eight persons had entered the waterbody and four of them got drowned. Mr. Sharma said that a search and rescue operation was carried out with the help of Delhi Fire Service, Delhi Disaster Management Authority, civil defence staff, and Sub Divisional Magistrate's emergency rescue team. The bodies were recovered during the early hours of Friday. One of the members of the group, who identified himself as Neeraj Prasad admitted that there were warning signs against entering the river but the group ignored them.

Look into illegal operation of petrol pump: NGT

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
Following a plea seeking remedial action against the illegal operation of a petrol pump in a green belt in Faridabad, the National Green Tribunal on Friday warned of coercive measures against municipal commissioner. The Haryana Chief Secretary was directed to take legal action and furnish a report within two weeks. A Bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said: "...option before this tribunal is either to take coercive measures for failure and negligence of the Municipal Commissioner [Faridabad] or require the Chief Secretary to look into the matter and take a decision whether such important office should be headed by any other suitable and responsible officer."

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Dengue cases down by 80%

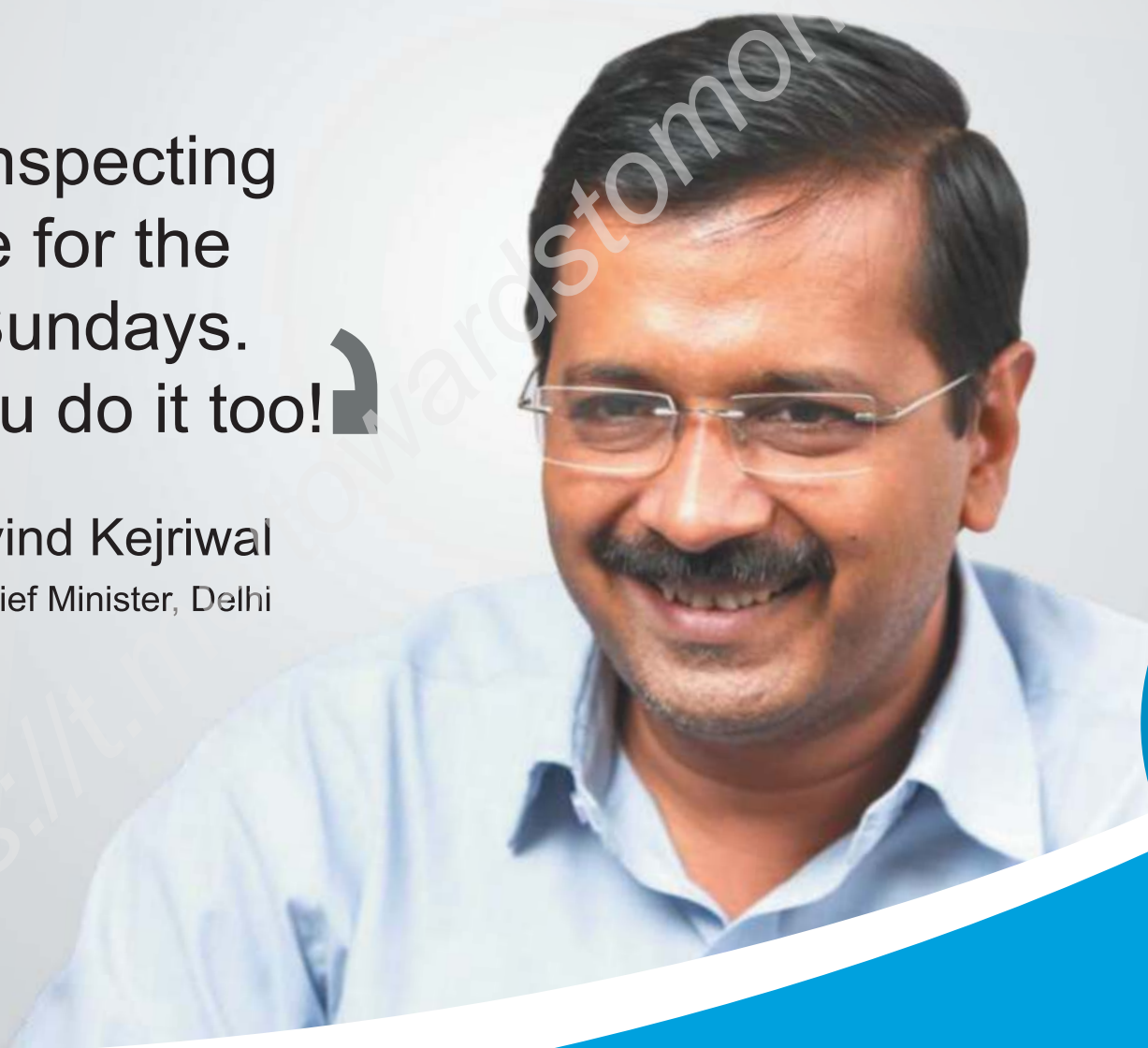
2015 : 15,867 cases

2018 : 2,798 cases

Delhi is prepared once again!

I will be inspecting my house for the next 10 Sundays. I hope you do it too!

- Arvind Kejriwal
Chief Minister, Delhi



डेंगू पे
वार हर
रविवार

Dear Delhiites,
This year too, we have to come together to fight against Dengue.

10 हफ्ते, 10 बजे, 10 मिनट
हर रविवार, डेंगू पर वार।

Know about Dengue

- The Dengue mosquito breeds in stagnant clean water.
- The Dengue mosquito grows from an egg into a mosquito in 8-10 days. If clean water is not allowed to stand, the mosquito will not be able to breed.
- The Dengue mosquito's flight range is approximately 200 meters. If someone in your house contracts Dengue, then it is likely that the mosquitoes have either originated from your or your neighbour's house. It is important to check your home and also that of your neighbours for your family's health and wellbeing.

10 minutes, every Sunday

- For the next 10 weeks, we all need to set aside 10 minutes at 10 o'clock every Sunday. Check flower pots, coolers, vases or anywhere inside or outside your house to make sure that clean water has not accumulated. If you find there is an accumulation of clean water, pour it out, change it or add petrol or oil to it.

Just 10 Sundays

- Most Dengue cases occur in the monsoon or just after that. During this period, there are 10 Sundays. If we dedicate 10 minutes at 10 o'clock every Sunday for this, we can get rid of Dengue and Chikungunya. We need to spend less than two hours over 10 weeks. In the last five years, Dengue and Chikungunya have been brought under control, and this year, we will do it again!

Let's come together!

- If you have inspected your house, do take a selfie inside your house and WhatsApp it to 8287972050. Together, we will make Delhi Dengue-free.

दिल्ली सरकार
आप की सरकार

दिल्ली फिर कर दिखाएगी

दिल्ली सरकार
आप की सरकार

Health Department, Government of NCT of Delhi

DELHI ☀️ Timings			
SATURDAY, SEPT. 14			
☀️ RISE	06:05	🌇 SET	18:28
🌙 RISE	18:53	🌅 SET	05:58
SUNDAY, SEPT. 15			
☀️ RISE	06:06	🌇 SET	18:27
🌙 RISE	19:24	🌅 SET	06:50
MONDAY, SEPT. 16			
☀️ RISE	06:06	🌇 SET	18:25
🌙 RISE	19:55	🌅 SET	07:42

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	36	28
Safdarjang	36	28
Palam	39	27

Delhi Palam Today
35°C Slight haziness during morning turns very warm and humid towards day thunder clouds development is expected at some parts.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
33°C A spell of rain and thundershower at some parts may occur. Humid condition would prevail.

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IN BRIEF



Help held for robbing house in Sarita Vihar

NEW DELHI
A domestic help was arrested for allegedly robbing a house in Sarita Vihar, the police said on Friday. Bhuvneshwari Kumari Shahi from Nepal, along with her two associates, had committed the crime after serving sedative-laced food to her employers, they said.

Govt. can reduce fines for traffic violators: CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Steeper fines under the amended Motor Vehicles Act have improved driver and road discipline in the Capital but the government can take a call on reducing penalties for traffic violations if these were potentially “hurting” the people, said Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday.

“We are observing it [the implementation of the Act] and if there are any fines, which are hurting people and are under our power to reduce, we will definitely do so. The government is sensitive and does not want citizens to face any problems,” he said.

Given “indisciplined” road traffic in Delhi, expensive fines could go a long way in improving road safety, he said. The government is yet to notify compoundable offenses under the Act.

“There is much indiscipline in road traffic. It is accepted that this [amended Act] has led to improvement in traffic,” the Chief Minister said at a press conference.

Foreign nationals held with gold worth ₹1.8 cr. at IGIA

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Two foreign nationals were arrested for allegedly trying to smuggle in gold worth ₹1.80 crore at the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), said Customs department officials on Friday.

The accused from Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan were intercepted at Terminal 3 on Wednesday. In another case, two Indians were arrested at IGI Airport while smuggling gold worth of ₹92 lakh from Dubai.

NCR functional plan for MSMEs released

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The National Capital Region Planning Board on Friday released the functional plan for micro and household enterprises in the NCR that aims to boost micro, small and household enterprises, and approved regional plans for seven districts.

Addressing the NCRPB Board meeting, Union Minister Hardeep Puri told NCR States to adopt the functional plan, which is mandated under the NCRPB Act, 1985, and work towards accelerating growth of MSMEs. The Board also approved regional plans for seven districts – Mahendragarh, Jind, Karnal, Bhiwani, Muzaffarnagar, Shamli and Bharatpur in Rajasthan.

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‘Conservation and development must go hand in hand’

Architects, urban planners rue that the bidding process in Centre’s revamp plan is skewed towards big infrastructure firms

JAIDEEP DEO BHANJ
NEW DELHI

The Centre’s plans to give the seat of power a makeover in the Capital has left urban planners and conservationists hoping that the development plans blend in with the old seamlessly so that the character of Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker’s iconic designs are not destroyed.

Bidding criteria

Over 18 architects and urban planners that participated in a pre-bid meeting organised by the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) raised objections to the request for proposal (RFP) document, which they alleged was suited for big infrastructure firms.

They also stated that the architects and designers, who could revamp Parliament House, Central Secretariat and Central Vista would be left out as they would not be able to fulfil the bidding criteria.

Several architecture firms submitted a number of suggestions to the Centre, including that selection be made on the basis of a competition open to architects only.

They also asked the government to provide a detailed programme for creating new buildings, recycling



A view of the area around the time the South Block was being built in New Delhi. • DELHI ARCHIVES

existing infrastructure and creating civic space. The architects said they feel there should be no evaluation of monetary capacity, including financial turnovers and the designs must be judged by a jury where the majority are architects of high acclaim.

Urban designer and architect Arun Rewal said nobody in the country should have a problem with revamping buildings but there would certainly be opposition if any heritage building were to be pulled down.

“I am all for adaptive reuse and strategic revamp of buildings to create civic spaces in the city but the document which the government has released along with invit-

ing bids is a mindless piece of work,” Mr. Rewal said.

On the bidding process, he said it has been set-up in a manner that only firms that have a turnover of ₹20 crore can take part. This will leave out most architectural and design firms and only attract large infrastructure firms, he said, adding: “The project should be headed by a committee that knows a thing or two about design. After all, these buildings are supposed to last for the next 150-200 years and need to be built with a proper vision. We have not even been told how many offices will be required or the number of people that will be working.” The designer alleged that the Council of Ar-

chitecture that was set up under the Architects Act, 1972 was being sidelined even though several buildings like Parliament Library, National Gallery of Modern Art and War Museum, among others, were all constructed following the Council’s guidelines to blend in with the other structures in Lutyens’ Delhi.

Adding a conservationist’s perspective, former Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) convener A.G.K. Menon said, “We recognise the need for development, more functional buildings, and spaces, and cannot oppose the plan but the point is what will replace it and who is the going to be the jury on what chang-

The project should be headed by a committee that knows a thing or two about designs. A competition should be held to choose the best design after debate and deliberation. After all, these buildings are supposed to last for the next 150-200 years

ARUN REWAL

Urban designer and architect

es will be made to our national treasure.”

He added that buildings like Parliament House, North and South Block have significant heritage values but one could argue that structures like Krishi Bhawan and Nirman Bhawan, be considered as heritage buildings as they are not too old.

“What needs to be done is to conduct a detailed report assessing the conditions of these buildings and their significance. INTACH has always argued that conservation is development-oriented and a proper procedure has to be followed for revamping,” Mr. Menon said.

He suggested that studies be done when applying for

A tactic to divert attention from pollution woes: Cong.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

On government’s decision to implement odd-even scheme after Diwali, the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee on Friday said it was a tactic to divert the attention of people from the problem of pollution with temporary measures.

DPCC working committee president Haroon Yusuf said, “Mr. Kejriwal [Chief Minister] thinks like a magician, he can wave his wand to create illusions...he can remove pollution and traffic problems by bringing back the odd-even scheme...but these are not the answers to pollution issues.”

He added that Mr. Kejriwal has been squandering the taxpayers’ money to put out advertisements in newspapers that pollution levels in the Capital have been reduced by 25% but is calling for another odd-even scheme.

‘Personal publicity’

“This means that the government has been wasting the public money for Mr. Kejriwal’s personal publicity. The government had promised that 1,400-km PWD roads in Delhi will be cleaned by mechanical sweepers and water will be sprinkled on it but the people of Delhi are yet to see these measures,” Mr. Yusuf said.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Delhi BJP on Friday attacked the AAP government following Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal’s announcement to implement odd-even vehicle rationing scheme here in November.

State BJP chief Manoj Tiwari accused Mr. Kejriwal of “harassing” the citizens of the Capital and said the Chief Minister was attempting to take credit for “concrete” measures put in place by the BJP-led Centre to address the issue of air pollution.

“The Kejriwal-govern-

ment completely failed to prevent pollution during the last 55 months...and has once again tried to mislead the people...He had introduced the odd-even system in the name of preventing pollution in January 2016 and in April 2016 on which he spent ₹20 crore but after checking it was found that there was no change in the pollution levels,” Mr. Tiwari alleged.

Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Vijender Gupta dismissed the scheme as a “publicity gimmick” and argued that Mr. Kejriwal neither had the scientific nor the

comprehensive study to support its decision regarding the implementation of the scheme.

“Pollution is a full-year challenge and cannot be controlled in a few days. The scheme has already proved ineffective to control air pollution in earlier attempts. It rather promotes two-car culture...Delhi’s public transport system is also too inadequate to meet the challenge during odd-even...it has failed to improve public transport system putting an extra burden on the environment,” he said.

I have been driving for the past 32 years. The odd-even scheme is good. I had fun because there is hardly any traffic on the roads and pollution is also less

BHOOP SINGH,
Driver

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VINOD MAHTO, Autorickshaw driver

Odd-even helps reduce traffic and perhaps even pollution. But we are not affected much by it but private cars are, which is a good thing

LUCKY SHARMA, Taxi driver

I have both odd and even number cars. But the scheme is good as the traffic issue gets sorted. Pollution, in my opinion, does not get affected

SANJAY SAXENA, Press member

■ PHOTOS BY: SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

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Sealed E-quotations are invited for contract rate of ‘**Providing and fixing of complete Window Glass 5mm in windows of Sinchai Bhawan, Narnaul**’. The quotations will be received upto **03:00 PM on 24/09/2019** and the same shall be opened in the office of undersigned on **25/09/2019 at 3:00 PM** in presence of bidders who desire to be present. The sealed quotations for supply must be submitted along with earnest money in the form of DD/DAC in favour of Executive Engineer, M/Garh Canal Water Services Division. Narnaul. The earnest money required @ **2%** of the quotation amount or quoted price by the bidder whichever is higher.

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DGIPR/2019/2020/2916

JJP releases first list for Haryana polls

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

After ruling out the possibility of any reconciliation with the India National Lok Dal (INLD), the Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) on Friday released its first list of candidates for the Assembly elections in Haryana.

The JJP – the breakaway

outfit of the INLD – had announced that it would contest all the 90 Assembly seats after its seat-sharing talks with the Bahujan Samaj Party failed last week.

The JJP's first list of candidates includes a former Minister and two ex-MLAs. The names of the seven candidates, which was released by

party's State president Nishan Singh, are: Devender Kadian from Panipat Rural, Anoop Dhanak from Uklana (SC), Ram Kumar Gautam from Narnaund, Rao Ramesh Palri from Mahendergarh, Kamlesh Saini from Narnaul, Shyam Sundar from Bawal (SC) and Harsh Kumar from the Hathin seat.

Two policemen thrash biker, suspended

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW

Two policemen in Uttar Pradesh's Siddharthnagar district were suspended on Friday after they were caught on camera thrashing and humiliating a biker allegedly over a traffic violation.

The footage of the incident was widely shared on

social media, following which Sub-Inspector Virendra Singh and Head Constable Mahendra Prasad were suspended, police said.

The matter relates to the Sakarpar police outpost under Khesraha police station in the district, which borders Nepal.

In the video, shot on Au-

gust 10, the two cops can be seen beating and hurling abuses at a youth, who was allegedly intoxicated.

While the S-I pinned him down by standing on his thighs and grabbing him by his neck, the head constable kicked the youth in the back many times. All this happened in full public view.

Chinmayanand quizzed by SIT

Told not to leave Shahjahanpur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SHAHJAHANPUR (U.P.)

The Special Investigation Team probing a student's rape allegation against BJP leader Swami Chinmayanand questioned him for seven hours and sealed the bedroom at his home here, sources said on Friday.



Swami Chinmayanand

The SIT, formed on the orders of the Supreme Court, also brought the college student to the former Union Minister's home on Friday morning, continuing the search for evidence in her presence.

Mr. Chinmayanand, whose organisation runs several colleges, was questioned for about seven hours at the police lines here on Thursday night.

SIT members and a forensic team also spent six hours at his Divya Dham residence, where the bedroom was later sealed.

Sources said the BJP leader has been asked by SIT not to leave Shahjahanpur till the completion of the probe, and policemen have been deployed in and around his home.

The college where the woman studied was closed on Friday with the administration announcing a holiday.

The post-graduate student has alleged that she

was raped and "physically exploited" for a year by the BJP leader.

The woman first levelled harassment charges against the BJP leader in a video clip uploaded on social media. She was then missing for several days before a Uttar Pradesh police team traced her in Rajasthan and produced her before the Supreme Court.

The woman's classmate, who was with her when the police found her, on Friday said she had told him and others about the harassment.

According to him, Mr. Chinmayanand told her to move into a hostel room after she got a college job as she would get late in reaching home. "She said a video was made of her taking a bath, after which she was blackmailed and her physical exploitation started," the classmate told reporters.

निविदा सूचना
हरियाणा विधानमंडल आम चुनाव-2019 के विजेता प्रमाणित हिमाल को काफ़ी मात्रा में प्रशिक्षित गाँवियों, टैन्, CCTV/ Web Casting, विविधोपकरण/कोटिंग, मुद्रित सामग्री व स्टेशनरी के सामान की आवश्यकता होगी। जिसके विजे ई-टेंडर की प्रक्रिया अपनाई जायेगी। इच्छुक फर्म दिनांक 18.09.2019 को सायं 5 बजे तक <https://haryanaeaprocurement.gov.in> वेबसाईट पर अपना टेंडर अपलोड करवाना सुनिश्चित करें। इसके बाद निविदा स्वीकार नहीं की जायेगी। टेंडर के सम्बंधित विस्तृत जानकारी उपरोक्त वेबसाईट पर उपलब्ध है।
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General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Age:** Approx 30-35 years, **Height:** 5'7", **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Strong, **ID Mark:** Akhil Saxena written on right hand, **Clothes:** Without Clothes, was found dead at Before Nathu Colony Chowk, Nand Nagri, Delhi. In this regard a **DD No. 24-B, dated 29.08.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Nand Nagri, Delhi.**

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

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Ph.: 011-22585985, 8750870727
DP/7315/NE/19

SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED



General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Shabnam @ Sayra, D/o Mohd. Sarraj, R/o: H.No. C-328, Chinot Basti, Nabi Karim, Delhi, Age: 15 years, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Thin, Hair: Black & Long, wearing Black Colour Legi, Blue Colour Suit and Black Sandel in feet, has been missing from Nabi Karim, Delhi, since 01.09.2019. In this regard a **FIR No. 309/19 U/s 363 IPC, dated 01.09.2019 has been registered at P.S. Nabi Karim, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about her please inform undersigned.**

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This is to inform to all concerned that House/Plot No.-B-359, Sector-92, Noida Dist-Gautam Budh Nagar, is registered in the name of my father Late Sh. Om Prakash Gupta S/o Late Sh. Daya Ram Gupta who is original allottee. The original document of the above plot has been lost. The use of these documents will be illegal. The application has been given for transfer to Sh. Neeraj Gupta S/o Sh. Om Prakash Gupta R/o K.C.-127, Gali No.1, Archana Enclave, Khora, Ghaziabad for the above plot B-359, Sector-92, Noida. If anyone has/have any objection he/she may file higher objection alongwith the sufficient proof i the Housing Department of the Noida Authority within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.
PUBLIC NOTICE
Dr. Sudershan Kumar, Advocate Chamber 298, Lawyers Chamber Block-II, Delhi High Court, New Delhi-110003
Chamber 1103, Lawyers Chamber Block, Rohini Court, Complex, Delhi-110085
Office: Jyoti Sadan, 1647, Rani Bagh, New Delhi-110034. (India)
Mob: 901338848-49

LEGAL NOTICE
CITATION UNDER SECTION 271 OF THE INDIAN SUCCESSION ACT PC NO. 40/2019
SH. VINAY KUMAR MALHOTRA
Versus
SH. RAJ DEV CHAUHAN
N.D.O.H./07/12/19
Whereas a petition under Section 276/278 of the Indian Succession Act 1925 for grant of Probate/Letter of Administration in respect of the Estate of deceased LT. Smt. Sundaraj Kapur, W/o Lt. Sh. Rajinder Lal, D/o Lt. Sh. Tulsi Dass Malhotra, R/o 5A/10196, Gali no. 2, Sat Nagar, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005, Who died on 25/03/1965 at Delhi, has been made by 1. Sh. Vinay Kumar Malhotra, S/o Lt. Sh. Tulsi Dass Malhotra, R/o 5B-31E, Janakpuri, New Delhi 110058, 2. Smt. Sudha Jai, W/o Sh. Deep Karan Jai, R/o C-130, First Floor, Sarvodaya Enclave, New Delhi, 3. Sewa Bharti, a society duly registered under society Registration Act, Office at-13, Bhai Veer Singh Marg, New Delhi-110001
Whereas the 07/12/2019 has been fixed for hearing of the case, notice is hereby given so that any person having any interest in the probate/letter of Administration of the estate of the said deceased if he/she desire to be heard shall appear before this court on 07/12/2019 before the grant of letter of Administration.
Given under my hand and the seal of this Court, this 29th day of August, 2019.
LAXMI KANT GAUR
Additional District Judge Central, Room No. 307, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

TENDERS
GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER
Karnataka Bhavan-I, No. 10, Kautliya Marg, Chanakyaपुरi, New Delhi-110021
No. RCK/BN/D/POTA CABIN WORK/2018-19 Date: 13.09.2019
Notice for Inviting Tender for pota cabin work at No:10, Karnataka Bhavan-I, (Annexe Building), Kautliya Marg, Chanakyaपुरi, New Delhi. The bidding documents/tender may be collected from office of the undersigned from 16.09.2019.
Sd/-
Asst. Resident Commissioner Government of Karnataka Karnataka Bhavan, New Delhi

A GREETING TO REMEMBER

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Polls are a mere formality, says Fadnavis

CM says Congress-NCP bigwigs must get used to staying in the opposition for long time to come

SHOUMJOIT BANERJEE
PUNE
The Assembly elections are a mere formality and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has already secured the public's mandate through the overwhelming response to its Mahajanadesh Yatra, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said on Friday.

He was speaking at the commencement of the third leg of the State-wide tour, which entered Ahmednagar district on Friday and is to cover western and northern Maharashtra in the next few days.

Taking potshots at the Congress and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), Mr. Fadnavis said: "The results to the election are a foregone conclusion... the few big leaders that the opposition has at the moment, like Ajit Pawar, Prithviraj Chavan, Ashok Chavan and Supriya Sule, must get into the practice of remaining there for a long time to come as it will be impossible to dislodge the BJP in the State and the Centre for the next 25 years."

"Several people ask me what is the need of this Yatra as no *pehelwan* (political heavyweight) in the opposition party is left to take the field. I tell them that it is the



Campaign trail: Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis waves at supporters during a rally in Ahmednagar district on Friday. •PTI

BJP's tradition to thank the people for their wholehearted support, detail our achievements in the past five years and take a firm resolution to finish unfulfilled tasks," said the Chief Minister, adding that the erstwhile Congress-NCP government had squandered the good will of the people despite being given a chance to develop the State for 15 years.

Promising that every per-

son in the State would have a roof over their heads by 2021, Mr. Fadnavis claimed that no previous government had taken up and fulfilled so many public welfare projects in a span of five years.

Mr. Fadnavis said the BJP-Sena government had given ₹50,000 crore in financial aid to farmers in the last five years in contrast to the ₹20,000 crore doled out by the Congress-NCP govern-

ment during its 15-year regime.

Claiming that Maharashtra now topped the country in investment and industry, the Chief Minister said that the government had improved the infrastructure in the rural hinterland, completing 22,000 km of rural roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.

Reiterating that the Opposition's allegation of elec-

They do not realise that it is Modi who is in the minds of every voter whenever he presses the EVM button

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS
Chief Minister

tronic voting machine (EVM) tampering was "ludicrous", he said: "They [the Congress-NCP and others] do not realise that it is [Prime Minister Narendra] Modi who is in the minds of every voter whenever he presses the button."

Mr. Fadnavis addressed public meetings in Akole and Sangamner, the bastions of former National Congress Party (NCP) veteran Madhukar Pichad and State Congress chief Balasaheb Thorat respectively.

Mr. Pichad and his son Vaibhav Pichad, who is the sitting MLA of Akole, left the NCP to join the BJP last month.

Praising the father-son duo, Mr. Fadnavis said: "The BJP has grown in strength in Akole ever since Mr. Pichad threw in his lot with us...Vaibhav Pichad, who is an articulate and knowledgeable legislator, will be re-elected by a record margin in the upcoming polls."

After much flip-flopping, NCP MP to enter BJP today

Udayanraje Bhosale likely to submit resignation to Speaker

SHOUMJOIT BANERJEE
PUNE

Ending days of speculation, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) MP from Satara, Udayanraje Bhosale, finally announced his entry into the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ahead of the Assembly polls.

Mr. Bhosale, a direct descendant of the Maratha warrior king Shivaji, is expected to submit his resignation to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and formally join the BJP in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP working president J.P. Nadda and Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, among others in New Delhi on Saturday.

While refraining from speaking to the media over his BJP entry for the past few days, Mr. Bhosale ended the suspense on Friday by tweeting a poster announcing the decision.

It is a homecoming of sorts for the royal, who had served as the State Revenue Minister in the BJP-Shiv Sena government between 1995 and 1999.

Meeting with Pawar

On Thursday, Mr. Bhosale met NCP chief Sharad Pawar at the latter's Pune residence in the presence of party leaders Dhananjay Munde and Shashikant Shinde. This led to fresh speculation that Mr. Pawar may, after all, have been successful in dissuading the MP from exiting a party already faced by several desertions.

However, Mr. Bhosale — one of only four elected NCP MPs in Maharashtra in the general election — apparently remained firm on his decision to leave the party. He is expected to take part in the BJP's Mahajanadesh Yatra when the tour reaches Satara on September 15.

There had been much flip-flopping on part of Mr. Bhosale on his decision to join the BJP. Earlier this week, a private meeting of the MP and his supporters in Pune, where he was supposed to announce his decision, was allegedly scrapped. One reason for his hesitation in quitting the NCP was that the BJP had apparently set conditions on his entry, demanding that he resign from his parliamentary post.

The MP, often a vocal critic of his own party, is appar-

NCP MLA, former policeman join Sena



Bhaskar Jadhav is greeted by Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray. (Below) Pradeep Sharma •VIJAY BATE

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

The Shiv Sena welcomed another leader from the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) into its fold on Friday. After resigning as MLA in the morning, former NCP State president Bhaskar Jadhav joined the Sena in presence of party chief Uddhav Thackeray at the latter's residence, Matoshri, in Mumbai.

"I have no grouse with anyone. I was a Sena worker before I joined the NCP. If I have said any objectionable things about Sena or Uddhavji in the past, that was my immaturity and misunderstanding. But since Uddhavji is welcoming me in the party, that means he has a soft corner for me even today," Mr. Jadhav said.

The leader, who was an MLA from Guhagar, left the Sena in 2004 to join the NCP. He has been a minister in successive State governments and a known NCP face in Konkan.

Former police officer Pradeep Sharma, who resigned from the force last week, also joined the Se-



na on Friday. The former encounter specialist is likely to contest from Nallasopara Assembly constituency.

Meanwhile, when asked about the seat-sharing discussions with the BJP, Mr. Thackeray said "everything has been decided between us". In a sarcastic remark directed at Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, the Shiv Sena chief said, "I will wait for the Chief Minister to prepare a list of Shiv Sena candidates and which seats we can contest. Then I will put that list before the party and we will decide how to move forward."

In 2014, the BJP and Shiv Sena had fought the Assembly elections separately after failing to arrive at a seat-sharing arrangement.

MLA held for 'unauthorised' installation of Shivaji statue

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JALNA

A BJP MLA and over 40 supporters were arrested for installing a statue of Shivaji without permission in Jalna district.

Badnapur BJP MLA Narayan Kuche and his supporters brought the statue to Pachod Road in Ambad early on Friday and installed it. After the police were alerted, a team led by Deputy Superintendent of Police CD Shivgan and inspector Anirudh Nandedkar reached the spot.

"They were arrested and later released. The MLA did not have permission to install the statue," said sub-inspector Sugarve Chate.

Mr. Kuche claimed the Ambad Municipal Council had earlier passed a resolution to install the statue.

Bidding Bappa adieu



Until next year: Devotees accompany the Ganesh idol of the Dagdusheth Halwai Ganapati Mandal during the immersion procession in Pune early on Friday morning. •MANDAR TANNU

Bhima-Koregaon: HC dismisses Navlakha's plea to quash FIR

SONAM SAIGAL
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Friday dismissed activist Gautam Navlakha's plea to quash the FIR against him in connection with the Bhima-Koregaon violence, stating it was satisfied with the material put forth by the Pune Police connecting him to the case.

A Division Bench of Justices Ranjit More and Bharati Dange was hearing a plea filed by the activist on October 5 to quash the FIR registered against him on January 8 for his alleged Maoist links and charging him with sections of the Unlawful Prevention Activities Act.

The Bench said, "Considering the nature and magnitude of the conspiracy, the investigation agency is required to be given time to unearth the evidence against Navlakha, given the scope of the probe is not restricted to Bhima Koregaon incident, but activities leading to the incident and subsequent activities as well are the subject matter of investigation."

The court further said, "Having considered the documents referred and submitted for our perusal by the [additional public pro-

Having considered the documents ... we are satisfied that the investigating agency has material to connect petitioner in the crime

HC DIVISION BENCH

secutor] in a sealed envelope, we are satisfied that the investigating agency has material to connect petitioner in the crime."

The Bench, which had reserved the judgement on July 26, said on Friday the petition was without merit and dismissed it.

Protection extended

Advocate Yug Chaudhary, appearing for Mr. Navlakha, sought for a stay of three weeks on the order, which was strongly opposed by additional public prosecutor Aruna Pai. After the court recorded the request, Mr. Chaudhary handed over the order passed by the same Bench on October 19, 2018, granting interim relief to Mr. Navlakha.

The court ordered that the interim protection from arrest would be extended for three weeks, and till then Mr. Navlakha can appeal against the order before the Supreme Court.

Memorial to Polish refugees to be unveiled in Kolhapur

Commemorative pillar put up in Valivade, where WW-II refugees arrived from Germany and Russia

SHOUMJOIT BANERJEE
PUNE

When Poland was caught between Adolf Hitler's Germany and Josef Stalin's Russia during the Second World War, a stream of refugees made their way to Valivade village in Kolhapur district, 235 km from Pune.

Here, they tasted freedom after having endured the living hell of Soviet camps following their deportation by the dreaded NKVD or the Soviet secret police.

On Saturday, a commemorative pillar in memory of these Polish families and individuals who lived in Valivade between 1942 and 1948 will be unveiled by Deputy Foreign Minister of the Polish Republic Marcin Przydacz, Polish Ambassador to India Adam Burakowski and Guardian Minister of Kolhapur Chandrakant Patil, said Bharatiya Janata Party Member of Parliament from Kolhapur, Chhatrapati Sambhaji Rajge.

"At a time when the world was torn apart by war, Europe was ravaged and parts of India were in the grip of a terrible famine, the Chhatrapatis of Kolhapur adopted these Polish families on humanitarian grounds. We want to keep this sentiment alive through the memorial and the



Down memory lane: Polish citizens and their relatives, who lived in Valivade in Kolhapur, visit Panhala fort and reminisce their childhood days. •ABHIJEET GURJAR

museum, which will strengthen Indo-Polish ties," said Mr. Sambhaji Rajge.

A permanent museum dedicated to the memory of the 5,000 Polish people who lived in the Valivade camp will come up within a year, he said.

A 29-member Polish delegation, which included those who had lived at the camp as well as their relatives, recalled their association with Kolhapur after 72 years during a tour of the historic Panhala fort. They reminisced, too, their journey to India through

Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan from the Soviet camps in Siberia and the Urals. They first reached Jamnagar in Gujarat, where the ruler, Jam Saheb Digvijayasingh Jadeja, in a noble gesture, took the refugees under his wing. From there, some of the migrants proceeded to Kolhapur.

Wanda Nowicka was among those who stayed on in Valivade even after the others left. She married a local, Vasant Kashikar and bore five children. "One of the early camps for the

Polish migrants was set up in Karachi in 1946," says Umesh Kashikar, one of the sons of the late Nowicka nee Kashikar. "From there, some of them went to Jamnagar and then to Valivade. It was here that our parents met and were united for life," said Mr. Kashikar, who works with a Mumbai-based cooperative bank.

Ludmila Jakutowicz, now in her eighties, came to the Valivade camp in 1943. "I left in February 1948. My mother brought me a Kolhapuri bangle in Christmas of 1947 and I have

never taken it off since then. After 72 years, this bangle is my fond memory of Kolhapur and India and of the ties that bind Poland and India," she said.

Poland was dismembered by the 1939 Nazi-Soviet Union pact or 'the Devil's Alliance', with the cream of Poland's officer corps, which included several members of the country's intelligentsia, massacred by the NKVD in the Katyn Forest in 1940.

The refugees, who were deported and lodged in Stalin's camps and finally made it to India, were the fortunate ones to flee Europe's bloodlands after Hitler invaded the Soviet Union in June 1941. "I was four years old when I was deported from Poland to the camps in the Soviet Union. India gave me my first fond memories," said Lancucka Labus, now nudging 80.

With the cooperation and affection of the citizens of Kolhapur, Valivade soon transformed into a 'mini Poland', with its own church, schools and even a cinema.

Today, several members of the delegation recalled their visits to the Panhala fort, their swim in the nearby river and the warmth of the people of Kolhapur.

HC dismisses plea against appointments of 2 ministers

SONAM SAIGAL
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Friday dismissed petitions challenging the appointment of two politicians who joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Shiv Sena as ministers on the ground that nothing could prevent the State from constitutionally appointing anyone as minister.

A Division Bench of Justices S.C. Dharmadhikari and G.S. Patel was hearing a petition that said Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil was elected MLA from Shirdi in 2014 as a Congress candidate and was the Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly. Jaydutt Kshirsagar too was elected as Congress MLA from Chousala constituency. They both resigned and joined the BJP and Shiv Sena respectively, thereby attracting disqualification on the grounds of defection within the meaning of Schedule X and Article 191 (2) of the Constitution.

The court however, refused to quash the appointments and said, "What has been done may strictly not be morally correct and may have been a political plot but we cannot hold that the ministers defected and are disqualified."



IN BRIEF
Former bureaucrat B.N. Yugandhar passes away

HYDERABAD
Former bureaucrat B. N. Yugandhar, 82, father of Microsoft chief executive officer Satya Nadella, passed away in Hyderabad on Friday. An IAS officer of the 1962 batch, he was Secretary to the Prime Minister's Office during P.V. Narasimha Rao's term. "Sri Yugandhar was a sincere and honest officer," Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhara Rao recalled.

Minister to raise uranium mining issue with KCR

HYDERABAD
Telangana Minister K.T. Rama Rao on Friday said he would discuss the concerns expressed over the proposed uranium exploration in the Nallamala forest with Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao. The Congress party, film personalities and others too have expressed concern over the project in the Amrabad Tiger Reserve in Nallamala.

Yediyurappa promises Kempe Gowda statue to woo Vokkaligas

'Community thinks it is being targeted by BJP'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

In what is being seen as an attempt to pacify the Vokkaligas, who came out in large numbers to protest against the "attack" on the community through the "harassment" of its leaders by the BJP governments, Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa on Friday announced the installation of a statue of Bengaluru founder Kempe Gowda near the Kempegowda International Airport here at a cost of ₹100 crore.

The statue of Kempe Gowda – an icon of the Vokkaliga community – is likely to be 100 ft tall. Besides, a museum to showcase his achievements and the growth of Bengaluru will come up within the airport premises. Sources said the statue would be on the lines of that of Sardar Patel's in Gujarat.



B.S. Yediyurappa

The proposal to install the statue is not new. It was first made when the international airport's name was changed from Bengaluru International Airport to KIA in December 2013.

The announcement by the Chief Minister through a tweet comes amid a perceived sense of antagonism towards the BJP by the community, which holds sway in the Cauvery basin districts.

Sources said Wednesday's protest, in which police estimated 25,000 people to have taken part, was being viewed seriously by the State

BJP leadership. While the party is being seen as the one that triggered the fall of the H.D. Kumaraswamy-led Janata Dal (Secular)-Congress coalition government, the Union government is seen with suspicion after the death of Cafe Coffee Day founder V.G. Siddhartha, allegedly following "harassment" by Income Tax authorities. The arrest of Mr. Shivakumar is being seen as the latest attack.

Feeling of alienation

The party leadership's assessment is that consolidation of Vokkaligas against the BJP would harm its prospects in several Assembly segments, sources said. Vokkaliga leaders in the BJP, including Revenue Minister R. Ashok and Tourism Minister C.T. Ravi, have been tasked to explain that the party is not against the community.

A section of Vokkaliga leaders believe the BJP had already alienated the community with the rise of Mr. Yediyurappa, a Lingayat.

ED custody of Shivakumar extended

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Friday extended for four days the Enforcement Directorate custody of former Karnataka Minister and senior State Congress leader D. K. Shivakumar.

Special judge Ajay Kumar Kuhar extended the custody till September 17. The probe agency had sought five-day custody, submitting that Mr. Shivakumar was "evasive" and gave "irrelevant answers" during his nine-day custody. Opposing the plea for extension of remand, counsel for the accused, Abhishek Manu Singhvi, submitted that his client was seriously ill. The judge told the Directorate to interrogate the accused after he was given medical care.

Celebrating the return of Athi Varadar at Kanchi

The Hindu's volume honours the iconic idol and temple

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The celebrations of the once-in-40 years Athi Varadar festival held at the Sri Varadaraja Swamy temple in Kancheepuram have been chronicled in book form by The Hindu Group for devotees to cherish for a lifetime.

The comprehensive book traces the 1,300-year history of the Sri Varadaraja Swamy temple and the devotees' tryst with the Athi Varadar idol, which is made of fig wood, during the 48-day celebrations held from July 1 to August 17 this year. More than a crore of devotees from various parts of Tamil Nadu and the rest of the country are said to have attended.

Embellished with details

The book, *The Awakening: Athi Varadar 2019* is a rich cornucopia of historical details embellished by several colour photos of the Athi Varadar idol, in both lying and standing postures. For devo-



The cover of the book brought out by The Hindu Group. The book traces the history of the Sri Varadaraja Swamy temple.

tees, this will be a collector's item. The book not only has details of Athi Varadar but also valuable historical information, including the temple's origin during the Pallava period, its development in the Chola era and its pinnacle during the Vijayanagara period.

Comprising a compilation of articles by several writers, the book takes the reader on a tour of the various shrines,

mantapas, sculptures, inscriptions, murals, and carvings in the famous temple.

While the book is priced at ₹250, it is available at a launch offer of 20% discount till September 15. The copies of the book are available at the offices of *The Hindu* and can be ordered online at the *The Hindu* publications website: <https://publications.thehindugroup.com/bookstore>.

A.P. lawyers' plea against law on triple talaq

A Supreme Court Bench has issued notice to the Central government

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday took on board a petition filed by an association of advocates from Andhra Pradesh challenging law criminalising the pronouncement of triple talaq by Muslim men.

A Bench led by Justice N.V. Ramana issued notice to the Central government and tagged the petition to other identical ones filed against the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage)

Act 2019, which penalises the declaration of triple talaq.

'Punishment excessive'

Other petitions include one by the Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, which said the Act had made triple talaq a non-bailable offence by which men can be imprisoned for three years even as desertion of wife by husband is not considered an offence in India. At best, desertion was a ground for divorce. The Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind said the three-year im-

prisonment prescribed under the Act was both "disproportionate and excessive".

The organisation said the law had made the declaration of triple talaq an offence graver than other crimes like rioting, kidnapping, death by negligence, concealment of birth by secret disposal of body, bigamy, bribery and food adulteration, etc.

Another petition by Samastha Kerala Jamiathul, one of the biggest religious organisations of Sunni Mus-

lim scholars and clerics in Kerala, claimed that the sole objective of the new law was "to punish Muslim husbands".

The Jamiathul said, "If the motive was to protect a Muslim wife in an unhappy marriage, no reasonable person can believe that the means to ensure it is by putting an errant husband in jail for three years and create a non-bailable offence for merely saying 'talaq, talaq, talaq'. Further, the offence was confined only to Muslim husbands."

Kerala to obey SC order on Maradu flats

K.S. SUDHI
KOCHI

With a humanitarian crisis evolving, the Kerala government is looking at various 'ways and means' to implement the Supreme Court order to demolish four Maradu flats 'without hurting anyone,' Chief Secretary Tom Jose has said.

The State government is constitutionally bound to implement the court order and it cannot go back on that. Taking into account the resistance put up by the residents of the four apartments, the State will rework



Refuse to budge: Residents at the Maradu flats protesting against the decision to demolish the apartments.

its strategies, Mr. Jose told *The Hindu*.

Though the Maradu municipality had served notices on the residents on Tuesday,

asking them to evacuate after removing their belongings, they have refused to abide by the notice. The deadline for the evacuation not-

ice will expire on Sunday.

The government had instructed the municipality to go ahead with the evacuation plan, said Mr. Jose. The local body had floated tenders inviting expert agencies to demolish the building. The government is aware of the resistance put up by the residents.

The municipality had already appealed to the residents to move out of the buildings, said Mr. Jose when asked whether the government would appeal to the residents for peaceful evacuation.

Directors of Karnataka's theatre repertory sacked

Ranga Samaj also dissolved; govt. decision draws criticism

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

The Karnataka government's decision to remove the directors of Rangayana, the State's foremost theatre repertory, and to dissolve the Ranga Samaj, a board of scholars, has invited criticism from theatre personalities and theatre enthusiasts. They have objected to the way the government has interfered in the affairs of independent and self-governing cultural institutions.

The appointment of Bhageerathi Bai Kadam (Mysuru), Ganesh (Shivamogga), Mahesh V. Patil (Kalaburagi), and Pramod Shiggaon (Dharwad) as directors has been annulled following an order issued on September 12 even before they completed their three-year term. The same is the case with



Rangayana is Karnataka's foremost theatre repertory.

members of Ranga Samaj, which appoints the directors of Rangayana, which has three-year tenure.

Sripad Bhat, Gopalakrishna Nayari, Mallikarjuna Kadakola, Visveshwari Hiremath, Sahana Pinjaar, L. Krishnappa, and M. Chandrakanth were the members of Ranga Samaj.

Expressing shock, Janard-

han, former Director of Rangayana, Mysuru, said the repertory was an autonomous institution.

"It is a tragedy that the government has chosen to act with the academic institutions, such as Rangayana, like political appointments, which are cancelled upon change in government. The order was uncalled for and such acts will only harm academic institutions. The government order will hamper the scholarly and intellectual works proposed by the directors," he argued.

"I sincerely hope that the government revokes its order immediately and reinstate them with honour," Mr. Janardhan added.

Senior theatre personality S.R. Ramesh said the government had set a wrong precedent.

Stark reminder



See and learn: A burnt bus put on display at the KSRTC Kempegowda Bus Station in Bengaluru on Friday for creating awareness of how people misuse public property during riots. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

Youth stabbed during festivities in Hubballi dies

Many skirmishes were reported

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HUBBALLI

Many stabbing instances were reported during the immersion procession of Ganesh idols in Hubballi on Thursday night resulting in the death of a youth.

According to police sources, there were several instances of skirmishes between groups of youths who were part of the immersion processions at Durgadail, near Harsha Complex, near Sangolli Rayanna statue, and at Old Hubballi.

Petty issues

While petty issues were said to be the reason for the clashes, it is not clear whether the instances were related.

Basavaraj Viresh Shivur, 21, a student of a nursing course in Hubballi and a native of Shankrikoppa village in Hanagal taluk of Haveri district, who had suffered stab injuries, died at KIMS Hospital on Friday.

The names of the injured persons were: Mahantesh Basavanagouda Hosamani, 17, Vinayak Bhajantri, 21, Manjunath Raju Gokak, 25, Nagaraj Kumbhar, 33, and Prakash Kathare, 32. All of them are undergoing treatment at KIMS Hospital here.

The police said that they were investigating whether the stabbing cases were related. Cases have been registered at the Town Police Station and the Suburban Police Station.

'Centre ignoring demand to write IBPS in Kannada'

It has cheated the people of Karnataka, says Siddaramaiah

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BENGALURU

Opposition parties in Karnataka on Friday hit out at the BJP government at the Centre, accusing it of 'ignoring' the demand of people of the State to write the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS) exams in Kannada, and termed it as "injustice" to Kannadigas.

The Congress and JD(S) said the advertisement for the online examination (Preliminary and Main) for the next Common Recruitment Process for selection of personnel for clerical cadre posts states that the exams will be held only in English and Hindi.



Siddaramaiah

"The Kannadiga demand of restoration of domicile clause prior to 2014 in IBPS exams are repeatedly ignored by @narendramodi @nsitharaman promise in parliament to conduct exam in Kannada is also dishonoured Recent notification

has humiliated Kannadigas We demand justice to kannadigas," the Karnataka Congress tweeted.

Former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has accused the Central government of 'cheating' the people of Karnataka and termed the move as a 'conspiracy' to prevent non-Hindi people from getting bank jobs.

"Central govt has again cheated the ppl of Ktaka. Does the promise of @nsitharaman & @tejasvi Surya mean nothing? Their lack of knowledge & breach of trust is a spectacle for moral spinelessness & political ineptitude," Mr. Siddaramaiah tweeted.

'Trend is in favour of LDF candidate in Pala'

STAFF REPORTER
ALAPPUZHA

There is a trend in favour of Left Democratic Front (LDF) candidate Mani C. Kappan in the Pala Assembly byelection, according to Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana (SNDP) Yogam general secretary Vellappally Natesan. He was speaking to reporters at Kanichukulangara here on Friday. Mr. Natesan said that the LDF candidate had gained greater acceptance among the Ezhava community in the constituency.

He said that United Democratic Front candidate Jose Tom Pulikkunnel was not a popular face. Nisha Jose K. Mani would have been a better candidate for the UDF.

Mr. Natesan said that the LDF candidate had been working in the constituency



Vellappally Natesan

for the past several years. "Mani C. Kappan will get sympathy votes. The LDF is also working hard. The issues within the Kerala Congress (M) and UDF will boost the chances of the LDF candidate," he said.

The Yogam general secretary said that the stance of the SNDP regarding the bypoll would be taken up in the council meeting.

Expert panel to review works in A.P., Amaravati

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA

Amid controversies surrounding the continuation of work in the capital city of Amaravati, the Andhra Pradesh government has issued a Government Order (GO) appointing a committee to review the ongoing work and suggest strategies for the overall development of the State, including Amaravati.

The committee is expected to submit its report to the government within six weeks, according to the GO.

The order, issued by the Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department, said an expert committee had been appointed with members renowned in urban planning to take a quick review of the developmental plans initiated so far.

The committee is expected to suggest a comprehensive development strategy for the all-round development of Andhra Pradesh, including the capital.

The committee members are Mahaveer, professor of planning, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi; Anjali Mohan, urban and regional planner; Shivananda Swamy of CEPT University, Ahmedabad; K.T. Ravindran (Retd), Delhi School of Architecture; and K.V. Arunachalam (Retd), Chief Urban Planner, Chennai.

G.N.Rao, IAS (Retd) will act as the convener of the committee. The order said the committee shall co-opt one member who is an expert in environmental issues and flood management. Orders regarding the other terms and conditions and remuneration of the committee and convener will be issued separately.



Jagan promises land for badminton academy
VIJAYAWADA
Andhra Pradesh CM Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Friday assured badminton champion P.V. Sindhu that the government would allot five acres to her to set up a badminton academy in Visakhapatnam. She had recently won gold at the Badminton World Federation Championship.

GI tag pays dividends for Marayur jaggery
IDUKKI
The GI (geographical indication) tag is benefiting Marayur jaggery, with the commodity fetching a record price of ₹70 a kg in Kerala's Marayur. The price has been ruling for over a week and is unlikely to fall in the coming days, market sources said.

Vijayapura to host mountain biking event
VIJAYAPURA
Vijayapura, in Karnataka, will host the two-day 15th State-level mountain biking championship from Saturday. The event is being organised by the Karnataka Amateur Cycling Association and 12 teams of different districts, including Bengaluru, Gadag, Dharwad, Bagalkot, Mysuru, Belagavi, and Vijayapura, will take part.

The teen who missed out on the ‘fun’, but lived to tell the tale

18-year-old who decided to stay back escapes

SIDHARTH YADAV
BHOPAL
Minutes before the lorry - loaded with a group of spirited youths around a Ganesh idol - left for the ghat, Ranjit Giri changed his mind and decided to stay back. The 18-year-old remembers his friend Arjun Sharma, who was excited to take part in the immersion a third time, scoffing at him: “You’re missing out on all the fun.”
But the decision to return home saved Ranjit’s life. His friend Arjun, along with 10 others from the 100-Quarters slum in Piplani area here, drowned in the Lower Lake after their two boats capsized while they were immersing the idol.
In a video taken from the ghat, the 20-foot-idol can be seen being placed on a plank set across the boats by a crane. As the boatmen row ahead, a man, crammed amid 10 persons in one of the boats, repeatedly shouts the word of caution: “Oye, pakadke baithna sab (Everyone! Hold on to the edge!)”
As 17 of the young men - 10 in one boat and seven in the



Tragedy at dawn: Rescue workers retrieving a boat that capsized during the idol immersion on Friday. ■ A.J.M. FARUQUI

carried to the ghat at 11.30 p.m., said a member of the samiti, while the incident occurred at 4.45 a.m..
Ahead of the festive season, the district administration had met various samitis asking them to keep height of idols short. “Big idols are prohibited near the ghat. However, we haven’t prescribed a maximum permissible height for them,” Bhopal Collector Tarun Kumar Pitthode said.
When the lorry arrived at the ghat, said Manish Dubey, who was there as part of another group to take part in idol immersion, the samiti

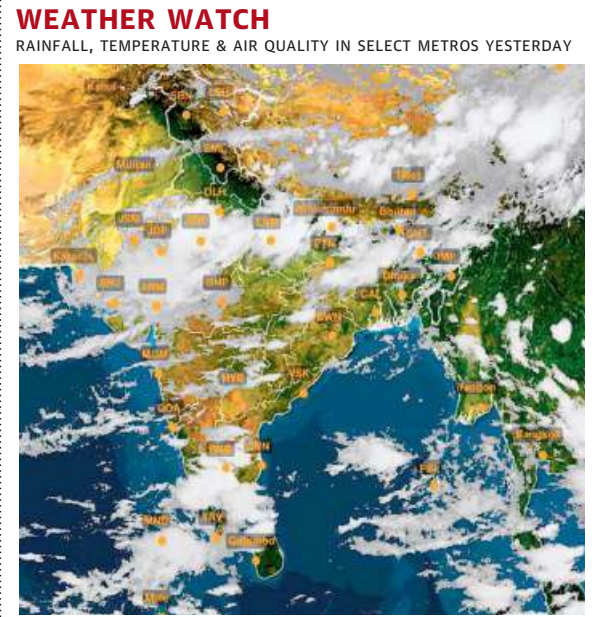
members, despite being stopped by guards, went through. “They argued they should be allowed in at least on the auspicious occasion,” he said. As Sanjay stood inside narrow lanes of the slum, next to a wailing father being consoled by BJP leader Shivraj Singh Chouhan, he said, “You can never tell what could happen to you, when a celebration could take a tragic turn.”
Mr. Pitthode said a Revenue Inspector, Deputy City Engineer, Sub Fire Officer and an Assistant Sub-Inspector had been suspended for dereliction of duty.

other - push the idol from behind, one of the boats capsizes. With flailing arms, some of them try to climb into the other boat, which too sinks in seconds. Rescuers and locals managed to save six of them, and the two boatmen.
The immersion was conducted by members of the Navratni Ganesh Utsav Samiti, which is backed by the Bajrang Dal. The idol was

PNB fraud: Interpol Red Notice against Nehal Modi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
The Interpol has issued a Red Notice against Nehal Modi, step-brother of fugitive diamond trader Nirav Modi, in connection with the ₹13,578-crore Punjab National Bank (PNB) fraud case. Nehal Modi is a Belgian national.
The notice has been issued on the request of the Enforcement Directorate (ED), which has accused Ne-

hal Modi of being involved in money laundering. Two open-ended, non-bailable warrants have been issued against him.
According to the ED, the accused was looking after the affairs of Twin Fields Investments Limited and Bailey Bank and Biddle for his brother.
The Interpol had earlier issued Red Notices against Nirav Modi and his sister also a Belgian national.



WEATHER WATCH
RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely over Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, eastern Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, West Bengal, Sikkim, Gujarat, central Maharashtra, Konkarn, Goa and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.6	33.0	25.6
Ahmedabad	1.4	28.5	25.6
Aizawl	3.0	24.3	10.7
Allahabad	46.1	32.7	25.5
Bengaluru	0.4	29.8	21.0
Bhopal	34.8	...	22.4
Bhubaneswar	...	31.7	25.6
Chandigarh	...	33.7	27.7
Chennai	...	34.8	24.7
Coimbatore	...	32.6	23.2
Dehradun	0.5	33.0	25.2
Gangtok	82.0	19.4	17.8
Goa	4.2	30.4	25.2
Guwahati	69.2	27.9	24.4
Hubbli	...	27.0	22.0
Hyderabad	...	28.7	23.2
Imphal	13.4	27.7	21.1
Jaipur	0.2	35.8	26.8
Kochi	...	30.8	25.2
Kohima	25.0	25.0	18.4
Kolkata	14.4	32.0	26.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITY	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	82	76	99
Bengaluru	...	2	81	...	38	93
Chennai	...	8	19	...	72	...
Delhi	...	8	48	...	77	208
Hyderabad	...	43	21	...	30	...
Kolkata	...	7	28	...	14	...
Lucknow	...	5	34	...	51	125
Mumbai	...	15	18	...	66	...
Pune	...	74	28	28
Visakhapatnam	...	15	54	...	50	...

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)
SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can cause visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.
NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.
CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.
PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease.

Yogi allots land to 281 persons affected by Sonbhadra killings

This is the U.P. CM's second visit to the place since July

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW
Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday handed out land documents to 281 persons in Sonbhadra district, two months after 11 tribals of a local village were killed over a long-standing land dispute.
Mr. Adityanath allotted the lease of 852 bighas of land to the beneficiaries at a function in Umbha village, where a village head and his associates opened fired at the villagers on July 17.
Taking a dig at Congress general secretary Priyanka



Gandhi Vadra, who had raised the issue of the killings and sought to blame the State government, Mr. Adityanath said he wanted to

“ask the Congress ki shehzadi (princess)” if she would apologise to the poor in Sonbhadra for the “injustice” suffered by its tribals under various Congress governments since 1952.
Faced with heavy criticism over the Umbha incident, the State’s BJP government has sought to pin the blame on previous Congress administrations.
By distributing the land leases to locals, the BJP government was restoring their rights that were snatched away during Congress party rule, he asserted.

Meet ends with vow to curb land degradation

UNCCD assures ‘neutrality’ by 2030

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI
A two-week long United Nations-led Conference to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) ended with a commitment to achieve land degradation neutrality by 2030. Such neutrality is defined by the UN as ensuring that enough land is available across the world to ensure a sustainable future.
The Delhi Declaration, a consensus document, agreed upon by more than 100 countries “welcomed” the proposed adoption of a “voluntary” land degradation neutrality target by India, which has committed to restoring at least 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030. The Declaration doesn’t detail commitments by other countries.
Almost 122 nations, including India, have made voluntary commitments in previous years to ensure that a certain percentage of their degraded land was restored. India had agreed, again on a voluntary basis, to restore 20 million hectares by 2020. Nearly 96 million hectares of land is deemed ‘degraded’ in India.
On August 14th, 2018, India claimed it had brought an area of 9.8 million hectares under restoration since 2011. Of the 9.8 million hectares, 94.4% was contributed by government agencies,

while NGOs and private companies contributed 3.6% and 2% respectively.
Countries will address insecurity of land tenure, promote land restoration to reduce land-related carbon emissions and mobilise innovative sources of finance from public and private sources, the UN said in a statement.
‘People at the heart’
“To my mind, this was the conference where we put people at the heart of what we do,” said Ibrahim Thiaw, Executive Secretary of the UNCCD, “We have woken up to the fact that we will see more frequent and severe droughts, a phenomenon that will be exacerbated by climate change,” he added.
Independent organisations said India must outline specific action plans to arrest land degradation.
“There ought to be clear estimates of the extent of degraded areas across various ecosystems and land use is required to assess the efficacy of ongoing reclamation programmes, to give successful policy prescriptions and to get an accurate picture of the actual costs of land degradation,” The Energy and Resources Institute, said in a statement. “Separate atlases and policies for grasslands and wetlands of India are clearly warranted,” it said.

Govt. has failed to bring in Uniform Civil Code, says SC

Constitution framers had hoped for uniform set of rules

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court said the nation has still not endeavoured to secure for its citizens a Uniform Civil Code. The government has till date taken no action, a Bench of Justices Deepak Gupta and Aniruddha Bose observed in a judgment delivered on Friday.
Justice Gupta, who wrote the 31-page judgment, said the founders of the Constitution had expressed their hope that one day the State would fulfil expectations of a Uniform Civil Code.



The SC quoted the example of Goa where uniform civil code was practiced.

Hopes of founders
The founders had penned their hope that a uniform set of rules would replace the distinct personal laws of marriage, divorce, etc. based on customs of each religion.
“Whereas the founders of the Constitution in Article 44 in Part IV dealing with the Directive Principles of State Policy had hoped and expected that the State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a Uniform Civil Code throughout the territories of India, till date no action has been taken in this regard,”

the Supreme Court wrote.
The court said though the “Hindu laws were codified in the year 1956, there has been no attempt to frame a Uniform Civil Code applicable to all citizens of the country.”
The judgment said, “Despite exhortations of this Court in the case of Shah Bano in 1985, the government has done nothing to bring the Uniform Civil Code...”
The Supreme Court hailed the State of Goa as a “shining example” where “uniform civil code applicable to all, regardless of religion except while protecting certain limited rights”.

Under this Code practised in Goa, a Muslim man whose marriage is registered in the State cannot practice polygamy, a married couple share property equally, prenuptial agreements are the order of the day and assets are divided equally between the man and woman on divorce.
The judgment came in a case concerning the question whether succession and inheritance of a Goan domicile is governed by the Portuguese Civil Code, 1867 or the Indian Succession Act of 1925.
Goa was once a Portuguese colony until it was made part of India. “Portuguese law, which may have had foreign origin, became a part of the India laws, and in sum and substance, is an Indian law,” the court held.
Law panel’s stand
In 2018, a Law Commission of India consultation paper had however said the Uniform Civil Code is “neither necessary nor desirable at this stage” in the country. The Commission said secularism cannot contradict the plurality prevalent in the country.

Court asks govt. to pay ₹5 lakh to Chennai techie’s family

‘Recover it from officials who didn’t act against flex boards’

MOHAMED IMRANULLAH S.
CHENNAI
A day after 22-year-old R. Subasri, the only child to her parents, was run over by a water tanker at Pallikarai in Chennai after an illegal flex board fell on her while riding a two-wheeler, the Madras High Court on Friday directed the State government to pay an interim compensation of ₹5 lakh to the family of the deceased.
Justices M. Sathyanarayanan and N. Seshasayee ordered that the money be recovered from government officials who failed to pre-

vent AIADMK functionary C. Jayagopal from erecting many flex boards on the Pallavaram-Thoraipakkam radial road for his son’s marriage.
Action against officials
The judges also ordered that appropriate action, including disciplinary proceedings, be initiated against the Corporation as well as police officials concerned, who turned a blind eye to the erection of the flex boards by the ruling party functionary without obtaining permission from the local body and the traffic police.

They took cognisance of the woman’s death while hearing a contempt of court plea filed by activist ‘Traffic’ K.R. Ramaswamy early this year.
Mr. Ramaswamy had accused the Chief Secretary of having failed to implement the court’s December 19 order banning political parties from erecting flex boards on arterial roads, platforms, walkways and major roads across the State.
The judges decided to monitor the investigation in the case and called for a status report by September 25.

UT OF LAKSHADWEEP
LAKSHADWEEP DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVT. OF INDIA UNDERTAKING)
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E-mail: amindivi@asianetindia.com
Dtd 13.09.2019

TENDERS FOR STEAMER/SHIPKEEPING/STEVEDORING SERVICES
E-tenders are invited for engagement of Steamer-Laundry/Shipkeeping and Stevedoring agents for New Mangalore Port vessel 250 Pax, 400 Pax Passenger vessels, 600 MT and 800 MT barges operated by LDCL vide tender nos: L D C L / S t e a m e r / L a u n d r y - 2508400/2019, LDCL/Shipkeeping/2019, LDCL/Steamer/Laundry/Barge/2019 and LDCL/Stevedoring/Barges/2019. For details and E-tendering please visit website www.tenderwizad.com/UTL. Tender due on 26.09.2019 at 2.00 PM. For any help in e-tendering, please contact M/s KEONICS e-tender help Desk: 080-40482000.
Sd/- MD (LDCL)

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Chennai Airport, Chennai - 600 027
Commercial Department

Notice Inviting E-TENDER No. 2019, AAI 32037_1
e-Tenders duly filled in and digitally signed are hereby invited for granting “License to Operate General Car Rental Services (for Motor Cab & Maxi Cab) at Chennai Airport” for a period of 3 years with Minimum Reserve License Fee (MRLF) of Rs. 38,00,000/- (Rupees Thirty Eight Lakh only) per month plus all applicable taxes and Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of Rs. 13,15,000/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Fifteen Thousand only). The tenders are to be filled online and technical documents are to be scanned and submitted through e-port only. Any changes in the Tender schedule, corrigendum, etc shall be available only on the website / portal and will not be published in the newspapers. The last dates of (i) e-tender downloading is - 03.10.2019 up to 15.30 hrs. (ii) Submission of tenders by uploading - 03.10.2019 up to 15.30 hrs. Opening of Technical bid through e-portal is scheduled on 04.10.2019 at 15.30 hrs and opening of Financial bid through e-portal is scheduled on 14.10.2019 at 15.30hrs. For further details, please visit AAI website www.aai.aero / portal address <https://etenders.gov.in> or contact the office of Jt.GM (Commercial), Airports Authority of India, 2nd floor, operational offices, Chennai Airport, Chennai - 600 016, Contact No: 044-2256 0528/4239/4613/4441.
Jt. General Manager (Commercial) for Airport Director

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2019-20	1 st year (Newly admitted)	UG/Diploma
2018-19	2 nd year (Renewal)	
2017-18	3 rd year (Renewal)	
2016-17	4 th year (Renewal)	UG only

Eligibility criteria and other details can be accessed on AICTE website <https://www.aicte-india.org/schemes/students-development-schemes>. Applications (online only) are to be submitted through AICTE website on or before **08.10.2019**.
Advt. No. RIFD/09(01)/2019
Vice Chairman

Odisha State Child Protection Society (OSCPs)
Department of Women & Child Development and Mission Shakti
Government of Odisha
Mission Shakti Bhawan, Gandamunda, Bhubaneswar
No.: 2027 Date : 13/9/19

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Sealed proposals are invited from reputed Recruitment Agencies for recruitment of Contractual Personnel under Odisha State Child Protection Society (OSCPs), State Adoption Resource agency (SARA) & District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) in Odisha. The details of ToR are available in the website of Women & Child and Mission Shakti Department Website i.e www.wcdodisha.gov.in which may be downloaded by interested agencies.

Last date & time of submission of proposal by **Registered post / Speed Post** as per the ToR is **03.10.19 by 5.00 P.M.**

33014/11/0001/1920 **Director, OSCP**



Irresponsible remarks

Courts must remain wary of political moves to undermine the judiciary

Remarks made by a Minister in Uttar Pradesh that the construction of a temple in the disputed site at Ayodhya is a certainty because “the Supreme Court is ours” cannot be dismissed as mere political zeal displayed by a party committed to the cause. It reveals a disconcerting cockiness that those in power tend to display when they believe that courts have to defer to those with an electoral majority. “The construction of a Ram temple is our resolve. The Supreme Court is ours, the judiciary, the country and the temple are ours,” is what the Minister for Cooperatives, Mukut Bihari Verma, is reported to have said. It is reassuring to note that the Bench, which is hearing a set of appeals against the decree passed by the Allahabad High Court in the title suits, condemned the remarks, as soon as its attention was drawn to them. Such irresponsible utterances must be quite annoying to the judges, and unforgivably embarrassing when they come from prominent members of the ruling party at the Centre. The court has said its reservations would be recorded in the order, which means that it will not let this brazen claim consume its valuable time. Mr. Verma has sought to clarify that when he said the court was “ours”, he did not mean that the government “owns the court”, but only that the court belongs to everyone and that it reflected his faith in the top Court. It is quite unconvincing as his claim of control over the judiciary was made in the context of the party’s resolve to construct the temple.

It would be in order if the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister took cognisance of his Minister’s remarks and initiated appropriate action against him. However, given the Bharatiya Janata Party’s fanatical commitment to the cause of building the temple at the site in which frenzied mobs had pulled down the Babri Masjid, it is unlikely that any such action would be forthcoming. The hearing in the Ayodhya appeals in the Supreme Court has been going on for weeks. In Lucknow, the trial court is making slow progress in the criminal case against those who demolished the mosque. In this backdrop, any attempt to create an atmosphere of fear or influence the proceedings will have to be viewed seriously. Earlier this month, the Supreme Court Bench ordered notice to a Chennai-based octogenarian who had allegedly written to senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, hurling curses on him for representing a Muslim party in the dispute. Mr. Dhavan has spoken about facing threats, ridicule and intimidating behaviour. While welcoming the court’s assurance that the parties can advance their arguments without fear, it would be in order to underscore that it should remain vigilant against attempts to undermine its role in adjudicating this dispute. After all, the quarters from which these irresponsible utterances come do not consider the fact of being in office a restraining factor.

Bane of banners

Illegal hoardings put up by politicians have become a threat to road users

The pervasive lack of governance in India’s cities has claimed the life of another citizen, this time in Chennai. A banner put up on a road divider by a functionary of the AIADMK to celebrate a wedding fell on a young woman riding a two-wheeler, sending her off-balance and under a tanker lorry. Subasri, 22, joins the list of hapless citizens whose lives were ended by civic neglect, police indifference, and, in Tamil Nadu especially, a political culture that dominates public spaces through exaggerated displays of cutouts, crude arches and flags at the cost of safety. Only two years ago, Raghu, a young engineer, died under similar circumstances in Coimbatore and another youth, Babu, was electrocuted in Udahgamandalam when he touched a party flag that was in contact with a wire; both instances involved ramshackle structures placed along roads. That political parties of all hues and motley groups see no need for restraint, even after many directions from the Madras High Court to stop endangering public safety goes to show that there are no serious consequences. Evidently, they are not persuaded by the orders issued in February this year by a division bench, impleading 11 political parties and reminding them of its many earlier orders that prohibit threats to public safety through banners and boards. The government must fix accountability and make individual members of the executive liable for lack of public safety.

There are disturbing aspects to the official response to the incident in Chennai, and the inquiry must go into the reported reluctance of the police to proceed against the AIADMK member who was responsible for the banners being put up. The Revenue Department and the local body must explain their failure to prohibit the dangerous structures, when there are clear orders in force, and acts of omission and commission should attract strong action. Even two years ago, the Madras High Court had ruled in a case that “the erection of arches, placards and display boards, banners with poles, etc., abutting into public streets and pavements, which obstruct free and safe movement of traffic or free and safe movement of pedestrians or obstructs visibility of drivers is patently illegal.” It is clear, therefore, that even where limited permissions could be given, the structures cannot affect public safety. Considering the long history of illegal political banners and religious displays, often involving theft of electricity, the court can bring about compliance with the law through a special panel, similar to the Supreme Court’s committee on road safety headed by a retired judge. Strong action is needed against recalcitrant politicians and lumpen groups who use banners as displays of power or fealty.

In Afghan peace derailment, a wagon of hope

The suspension of U.S.-Taliban talks has opened the space for the global community and India to reset the peace process



GAUTAM MUKHOPADHAYA

In a characteristically mercurial tweet on September 9 morning (Indian Standard Time), U.S. President Donald Trump abruptly called off ‘peace’ talks with the Taliban – led directly by the U.S. Special Envoy to Afghanistan, Zalmay Khalilzad – citing the killing of an American soldier just days before in a suicide bomb attack for which the Taliban claimed credit. He also revealed that he had secretly invited the Taliban and the Afghanistan President, Ashraf Ghani, separately to Camp David over the weekend to clinch a deal personally. The agreement had been in the making over many rounds of talks, largely in Doha, Qatar, of which the Afghan government was not a part on account of a Taliban veto that the U.S. implicitly accepted, ostensibly to bring peace to Afghanistan.

Agreement contours

The tweet capped a turbulent week during which Mr. Khalilzad briefed Mr. Ghani and the Chief Executive of the National Unity Government of Afghanistan, Abdullah Abdullah, on the interim agreement over several rounds of talks. They were shown but not given a copy of this. The salient details of the agreement were revealed on a private television channel on the evening of September 2. They centred primarily on an initial timetable for the withdrawal of around 5,400 out of nearly 14,000 U.S. troops from five Afghan bases in 135 days. Also included was a tight timeline of two weeks to kick-start intra-Afghan talks before the Afghan presidential elections scheduled on Sep-

tember 28. The announcement was accompanied by a wave of violence that included offensives against strategic provincial capitals in the north and suicide bombings in Kabul, including one just as Mr. Khalilzad was wrapping up his TV interview. They were clearly intended to sabotage the elections. These were not allowed to affect the agreement.

Out of sync

The deal as negotiated was one-sided, partial and highly flawed. It was loaded heavily towards Mr. Trump’s goal of a withdrawal of all U.S. troops by November 2020, weak in guarantees against terrorism aimed at the U.S., and lacking safeguards for the security and stability of Afghanistan. Unresolved differences over the withdrawal of the remaining troops (8,600) amid U.S. insistence on a residual counter-terrorism (CT) and intelligence presence, and a lack of trust in the Taliban at critical levels in the U.S., were among the reasons for Mr. Trump’s decision.

Other elements of what the U.S. maintained was a composite agreement, were also seriously compromised. The comprehensive ceasefire was watered down to a limited ‘reduction’ in violence (observed more in its escalation). And, the intra-Afghan government talks were effectively downgraded, under Taliban pressure, to talks with a non-official delegation. The Afghan government with which the U.S. has bilateral strategic partnership and security agreements, was sidelined and powerless, contributing to a public sense of helplessness that decisions regarding Afghanistan were being taken by foreigners. The government has gained from the backlash.

The most insidious aspect of the announcement was its timing and attempt to rush intra-Afghan talks just days before the presidential elections with the aim of under-



mining the elections and rendering them meaningless. The fear was that if successful, they could have undercut plans to instal an interim, transitional or power-sharing arrangement that could provide the fig-leaf of a mechanism and an illusion of peace to pull out U.S. forces. It would have paved the way for a dominant position for the Taliban in any future dispensation before they took over power altogether. It would have pushed Afghanistan towards instability and even a civil war worse than the intra-Mujahideen fighting of the 1990s with unpredictable consequences.

More fundamentally, the agreement was also widely criticised in the U.S. and elsewhere. It was seen as a “negotiated withdrawal”, “abdication”, and even a “surrender” rather than a peace agreement, sacrificing the political, military and economic investments and civic gains of the last 18 years including democracy and the advancement of women, and creating the conditions for a likely descent into civil war, fanning radical extremism. In Afghanistan, the agreement was widely perceived as a sell-out and a betrayal of Afghanistan to the Taliban and Pakistan. These are concerns Indians share deeply.

Short-lived relief?

Under the circumstances, notwithstanding the manner and reasons for calling off the talks for which Mr. Trump has been rightly lampooned – particularly the shocking invitation to the Taliban to Camp David just days before the

9/11 anniversary – his tweet at least had the virtue of pulling Afghanistan away from the brink of disaster foretold. Behind the decision was an instinct that it was a bad deal for the U.S. and exasperation with the Taliban’s attempts to extract maximum advantage for the meeting; the Taliban’s insistence on the announcement of the deal before the visit, deprived him of the lime-light for sealing the deal.

However, while Afghanistan and the world may breathe a sigh of relief that the Khalilzad deal has been aborted for now, this may be short-lived. The mindset of a unilateral pullout unmindful of its consequences for Afghanistan and the region and the danger of Trumpian swings, remains. For now, Mr. Trump has proclaimed the talks to be “dead” and ordered offensive operations. But he still needs a counter-terrorism strategy for which he would have to look for options. The demand for a peace process will also remain. Things could change again in a few months.

A role for India

Nevertheless, the suspension of U.S.-Taliban talks has opened the space for the holding of Afghan presidential elections and a window of opportunity for the international community and India to reset their approach to peace and withdrawal.

First, the Afghan election authorities and security forces should be supported in every way to conduct free and fair elections as an exercise of Afghan sovereignty. Concerns about misuse of government apparatus should be addressed. The Taliban will try to disrupt it. But a reasonably good turnout even if elections are held only in secure areas would be a barometer of support elsewhere, victory for the constitutional order and ‘Islamic Republic’, and a repudiation of the ‘Islamic Emirates’ of the Taliban.

Second, its outcome could provide a stronger foundation for talks with the Taliban that are Afghan-led, Afghan-owned and Afghan-controlled, and not as dictated from Washington, Islamabad, Doha or Moscow. India should be able to support such talks.

Third, free from elections, the Afghan government should take the lead in forging a national consensus behind talks with the Taliban that it has failed to do until now.

Fourth, the international community should support this process and focus its efforts on the Taliban to demonstrate their ‘nationalism’ by distancing themselves from Pakistan’s Inter-Services Intelligence, halting attacks against fellow Afghans, agreeing to a ceasefire, and negotiating directly with a representative Afghan delegation.

Fifth, resumed U.S. military pressure on the Taliban is not enough. The Doha talks dispel any doubt that the route to peace in Afghanistan is through Pakistan even though it was the U.S. that was making the concessions. Every possible instrument should be brought to bear on Pakistan to deliver on this.

Crucial to Afghanistan’s future is its ability to stand on its own feet economically, through investment in Afghanistan’s mineral sector to generate revenues, and militarily, through a progressive ‘Afghanisation’ of security forces at a lower budget. India should be able to help in this.

Finally, India should be able to use Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s rapport with Mr. Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin to influence their policies and play a larger international diplomatic role in Afghanistan.

Gautam Mukhopadhyaya is a former Ambassador to Afghanistan (2010-2013) and, currently, Senior Visiting Fellow, Centre for Policy Research, Delhi

A milestone in greater transparency, accountability

The launch of the Jan Soochna Portal in Rajasthan is a vital cog in access to the right to information



MADAN LOKUR

The Jan Soochna Portal (JSP) launched by the government of Rajasthan yesterday is a remarkable achievement in furtherance of the right to information (RTI) – especially Section 4 of the RTI Act – that deals with proactive disclosure of information. Transparency must be accompanied by accountability, and that is where the JSP has great value and significance since it places the power of making the State government accountable to everyone who accesses the information made available on the portal.

Has transparency accompanied by accountability brought about transformation in any system? During my association with the eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India, and keeping transparency in the justice delivery system in mind, a National Judicial Data Grid was launched. This gave information about all pending cases across the country. Some time back, a year-wise breakup of pending cases was given on the grid and it was found that more than 70,000 cases were pending for over 30 years. These figures meant nothing until the justice delivery system was

asked to account for the enormous delay in such a large number of cases. Chief Justices and Registrars in many courts appreciated the fact that they needed to answer questions relating to such enormous delays; now many courts have begun to concentrate on the disposal of old cases with considerable success. This is a good example of transparency accompanied by accountability brought about by civil society.

Several access points

I had the privilege of a sneak preview of the JSP. Details of every activity of the government such as availability of food grains and ration shops and their distribution, implementation of various schemes and their beneficiaries and a variety of other information are available on a real-time basis virtually making it a Janta Information System. The portal has been arrived at through a regular and rigorous consultative process between government officials, IT professionals and civil society. Such a process of dialogue should be practised in all spheres to genuinely harness the benefits of information technology. Digital divide is indeed a serious problem in India. To bridge this, care should be taken to ensure that access points are open and free.

Since the information is available on the Internet, every citizen, right down to the municipal ward and panchayat, has access to the



GETTY IMAGES

information. For example, I saw that on a random basis, a number of identified persons in a particular area had not availed themselves of any rations for several months. Such persons can be easily contacted and if they do not want to avail the benefits available to them, they can surrender it in favour of some other deserving person. Similarly, the government of Rajasthan, like some other States, has waived farmers’ loans. The portal gives the details of every farmer in every bank branch whose loans have been waived, along with the amounts. Another significant piece of information is about mining leases. Illegal mining has been a major issue in different parts of the country, with people unable to determine the details of clearances given. This portal gives the list of mines in every district, provides geographical coordinates, and the area where mining has been permitted, including the land deed identifiers. It also pro-

vides details about pollution and environment clearances. Finally, the portal provides details of production and royalties and taxes paid. This kind of information can facilitate a progressive partnership between government and citizens for a cleaner society.

What is important is that a tremendous amount of information is available on the files of the government of Rajasthan, which till date could only be accessed through the filing of RTI applications. However, with the use of technology and digitisation of records and information, this information is made freely available on the JSP. To this extent, there is no need for anyone to take recourse to the RTI Act and await a response. All information can be accessed immediately, free of cost.

Key challenges

The mere launch of the JSP is not enough. There are huge challenges with regard to maintenance issues and ensuring that there is no let-up in the availability of information. With this in mind, draft guidelines have been framed for the development and maintenance of the JSP. Once implemented, this will ensure that the information system continues uninterrupted. Various departments of the government of Rajasthan, called Line Departments, have been given a set of obligations that they are expected to fulfil. For example, they are expected

to ensure digitisation of records. In addition, the Department of Information Technology will serve as the nodal department for the development, operationalisation and maintenance of the JSP.

This department has been informed of its obligations, which includes adherence to the norms and standards laid down by a digital dialogue advisory group. To ensure that the responsibilities are carried out, the advisory group will be the monitoring agency. Grievance redressal officers will be appointed so that citizens can make the State government truly accountable.

Training for citizens

The government of Rajasthan has also taken steps to train citizens so that they are aware of the facilities available. This by itself may not be enough. Therefore, it has been decided to host the JSP in decentralised locations, right down to the municipal ward and panchayat levels. They will have access to welfare schemes, revenue activities such as mining, and other service delivery issues such as health and education.

It would be wonderful if all other State governments follow the Rajasthan government’s initiative, which aims to make people, including the marginalised sections, a part of the governance process.

Justice Madan Lokur is a retired judge of the Supreme Court of India

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Condemnable remarks

The remarks of Uttar Pradesh Minister Mukut Bihari Verma, that the construction of Ram temple is “our” (BJP’s) resolve and that the Supreme Court, judiciary and the country are all “ours” show the depth of arrogance of the ruling party’s members (Front page, “Ayodhya: SC frowns on U.P. Minister’s remarks,” Sept. 13). This distasteful statement was made not by an ordinary BJP member, but by a Minister. The Supreme Court did the right thing in condemning the comment. However, considering that some Hindutva activists are reportedly sending threatening messages to advocate Rajeev Dhavan, who is appearing for the

Waqf Board, one doubts whether the court will be able to deliver justice without fear or favour.

D. SETHURAMAN,
Chennai

Riding rough

While driver errors such as speeding and drunk driving are among the causes of automobile accidents and need to be punished stringently, dangerous road conditions are also a significant contributor. The recent episode of a hoarding falling on a woman driver is in a different league altogether. Who is to be punished for this ghastly accident? Various government agencies are responsible for maintaining roads and ensuring they are safe for

drivers, cyclists and pedestrians. With the new rules in force, the authorities cannot absolve themselves of liability for accidents. Blaming only citizens and levying fines is only part of the solution. We read repeatedly about ‘road safety weeks’ but never hear of a ‘road improvement week’ (Editorial, “Futile fines,” Sept. 13).

H.N. RAMAKRISHNA,
Bengaluru

■ The government needs to make full use of technology on roads to record violations, reducing the burden on traffic police. Further, parking of vehicles on roads, footpaths and public land needs to be banned and

heavily penalised. Multi-storey parking spaces can be created by civic authorities to accommodate vehicles. Separate spaces need to be demarcated on roads for different types of vehicles and non-compliance needs to be punished. These measures will add more teeth to the regulations brought under the Motor Vehicles Act.

A.L. AGARWAL,
Chennai

U.S.-Iran talks

Iran needs to unequivocally welcome the departure of U.S. National Security Advisor John Bolton and the signals coming from Washington that President Donald Trump is open to talks without preconditions (Editorial page, “A U.S.-Iran

detente could be on the cards,” Sept. 13). Here, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has to take a neutral stand and let President Hassan Rouhani have his way. Only by sidelining hardliners and bringing moderates to the forefront can the two sides create the conditions for a possible rapprochement.

ABDUL RAHMAN,
Ayodhya

In fine print

Since the days of yore, the ‘Letters to the Editor’ section has been serving as an umbilical cord between the

newspaper and its readers. In today’s digital world, many individuals express their opinions – ranging from the sublime to the trivial – online. However, when we see a letter in print, we automatically know that it is refined and stands out amidst the clutter. No social networking platform can give one the joy of seeing his or her name in the day’s newspaper (Notebook, “The art of managing LTTE,” Sept. 13).

ADRIAN DAVID,
Chennai

MORE LETTERS ONLINE:
www.hindu.co.in/opinion/letters/

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

In the news report headlined “RSS softens its line on gay marriage” (Sept. 11, 2019), the references to *Article 377* should be corrected to read as *Section 377* IPC.

The Readers’ Editor’s office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300; E-mail: readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

Valley of discontent

More than a month after Jammu and Kashmir lost its special constitutional status and statehood, **Varghese K. George** visits the Valley and finds people, distrustful of politicians and the media, feeling the effects of a lockdown by the state and a shutdown called by protesters



“Shops across Srinagar, Pulwama and Shopian remain shut; medical stores are the exception.” Strict restrictions were imposed in Srinagar on Muharram on September 8. (Below) Shopkeepers in Pulwama town. • NISSAR AHMAD

“You will give us jobs? You are shutting down plants and firing people!” Masood Ahmad, a tour operator in Pampore, is scornful. The dilution of Article 370 of the Indian Constitution that accorded special status to Jammu and Kashmir through a controversial process, the constitutionality of which is being challenged in the Supreme Court, shocked him, but what he scoffs at are the promises that accompanied it.

“India is so down and out that it is robbing from the Reserve Bank. And you say you will develop Kashmir? Are you kidding?” Ahmad, 35, has kept abreast of the latest news despite the information lockdown in Jammu and Kashmir. He says there is reduced tourist interest this season. Hotels across Kashmir have been empty since the government forced tourists to leave on August 2, three days before it ended the State’s relative autonomy and divided it into two Union Territories.

Junaid, who only offers his first name, is jobless since the hotel where he works is shut. Until last year Junaid had worked in New Delhi with a tech company, but returned when it began to lay off many employees.

A few perch on the verandah of a shop with downed shutters. All shops remain closed on this road. An earshot away, soldiers in the shadow of an armoured vehicle guard a mechanic who is peering into a telephone box. “You say you will end corruption in Kashmir, but where in India has the BJP ended corruption? Madhya Pradesh? Karnataka? You say Kashmiri students are going out to study. Aren’t students from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh going to other States to study?” Ahmad speaks over many others who try to get a word in. They all have a lot to say.

Lighting a fire

Over the years, the larger Indian market has lured tour operators and traders of apple, dry fruit and saffron from Pampore, called the ‘saffron town’ for its abundant yield of the expensive spice. Many of them are now in cities outside Jammu and Kashmir, for education, business and jobs. Feroz Ahmad, 32, runs his saffron business from Delhi. “There was no way to remain in touch with my family after the communication shutdown, so I decided to stay here until things improve,” he says.

But being a part of India no longer holds the power of seduction for many; instead, Kashmiri millennials loathe the macho aggression of New Delhi. “This trauma is not going to end easily or soon,” Feroz says stoically. “Now that the can of worms has been opened, there is going to be a stream of issues that will keep us in turmoil – land ownership, demographic changes, delimitation.” A spark has been thrown, says Junaid. “It will light a fire – I don’t know when, how and where. And there will be people waiting to pour fuel on the fire.”



Now that the can of worms has been opened, there is going to be a stream of issues that will keep us in turmoil – land ownership, demographic changes, delimitation.

FEROZ AHMAD
Businessman

Pakistan is already on the job, say security officials who request anonymity. Infiltration is on the rise from across the border; and arms seizures this week clearly point towards heightened militant activity, home-grown and foreign. A senior security official says Indian surveillance has picked up chatter in Pash-tun from across the Line of Control, in Pakistan-controlled territory, indicating the possibility of Taliban fighters.

Apple growers and traders are being threatened. This is disrupting the mainstay of Jammu and Kashmir’s economy. The apple *mandi* in Shopian, which is generally buzzing at this time in a normal year, is empty and taken over by dogs. Shops across Srinagar, Pulwama and Shopian remain shut; medical stores are the exception. Eateries here and there operate with doors ajar or through a side entrance. Posters have come up in many places warning people against opening their businesses, and rumours have it that militants are stopping vehicle movement on highways. “Shutdown is our resistance. This is our only weapon,” says 70-year-old Mohammad Iqbal in Pulwama town. “We can continue like this for months on end. We will support one another and manage.”

But there is another view. “What is being called civil resistance is actually a behaviour sought to be imposed through coercion flowing out of the barrel of a gun,” says Rohit Kansal, spokesperson of the Jammu and Kashmir government.

Waiting and watching

Protesters are clear-eyed about Article 370. “It had long become an empty shell. The Congress, with the collaboration of the National Conference (NC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), had hollowed it out and there was no autonomy worth the name for decades,” says Shafiq Ahmad in Pampore. “Still, we used to chant *Chuvan Izzat, Nuan Izzat, Trihat Satat, Trihat Satat* (Your honour, my honour, 370, 370).” If Kashmiris had imagined a dead letter to be an honourable liaison with

India, its incineration is understood as humiliation and dispossession. “This is a war on us. We didn’t seek this,” says Shafiq.

The government believes that dilution of Article 370 has extinguished the vague hope of *azadi*, or freedom, that had kindled Kashmiri politics for decades and prepared the ground for a realignment in the region’s ties with the mainland. An official says Kashmiris will now come around to discuss “mundane concerns of life”. Officials say the tight clampdown on assembly of people – which continues though only 10 of 200 police stations have declared restrictions in place – is to ensure that violent street protests are not organised. “Criticism about restrictions is one thing, but what is remarkable is that we are keeping things under control without firing a single bullet,” says an official who does not want to be named. Until Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s trip to the United States later this month is concluded, the restrictions will stay. Once they are removed, it will be anyone’s guess how the grievances will be expressed, several officials say. “There may not be immediate protests but a small trigger somewhere could snowball into a big crisis. That has been the pattern of protests in Kashmir,” says a police officer.

A long-time observer of the place says public opinion in Kashmir is layered. Locals have evolved a lifestyle to safeguard themselves during prolonged conflicts, but this can often be misleading, he says. “A shopkeeper might ask a military official to publicly rebuke him to keep his establishment open so that he can cite that as an alibi. A local leader could play the same trick to stand in an election,” he says. However, if there is

Is this how democracies function? Can you count how many Articles of the Constitution are being violated here?

KAMRAN ALI
Student



unexpressed love for India among Kashmiris, it is deeply buried. Survival in Kashmir has been about avoiding binary choices – India and Pakistan, separatists and the mainstream, secession and integration. On August 5, New Delhi drew the choice for Kashmir in stark binary terms.

‘Let them rot in jail’

The NC and the PDP mirrored this Kashmiri dilemma and tiptoed around questions of identity and autonomy, and framed their politics in a manner that the BJP derided as “soft separatism”. The NC proposed ‘autonomy’ and PDP proposed ‘self-rule’ in response to separatism and extremism. They fashioned themselves as the protectors of the region’s distinct cultural identity. “All those questions are now off the table. The response of mainstream parties will be a major factor in Kashmir politics,” an official says. With former Chief Ministers Farooq Abdullah, Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti in detention, these parties currently have the convenience of avoiding the question after New Delhi’s August 5 decision pushed them to the wall. Clearly implied always in their politics has been an understanding that Jammu and Kashmir’s accession to India is final and irreversible. Their popularity had been sinking to new lows even before the BJP under Modi launched an all-out attack on them.

“We have no sympathy for them. Let them rot in jail,” says Hilal Ahmad, a teashop owner in Pulwama. “They have duped us for decades. They took money from Delhi and enriched themselves. This serves them right.” The government’s publicity campaign inflames this passion against these regional leaders, clubs them with separatists, and pits them against ordinary Kashmiris. “While the children of separatists and politicians study in London, New York, Singapore and other top cities of the world, the children of the poor in Jammu and Kashmir have been denied even a decent education facility,” reads one

government ad.

Though voter turnout is always low in Kashmir, the NC and PDP have always had a network of workers in the Valley. New Delhi’s current policy is to build a network of local body representatives as an alternative political class to replace regional parties. Mir Altaf is the sarpanch of Pampore and is one such supporter of the government policy. He says he was part of the delegation that met Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi on September 3, but he has not been to Pampore in months. Jammu and Kashmir has more than 4,000 sarpanches and nearly 30,000 elected members of local bodies. Last year’s panchayat elections were boycotted by the mainstream parties. “We took the risk and ran for the election. Initially, we were told that 22 departments will be brought under panchayat supervision but only six or seven have come,” he says at a hotel in Srinagar. Hundreds of people like him are housed in hotels in the city, due to security threats. Altaf says people do not care about autonomy or Article 370. “People want development. They want to get on with life.”

However, his constituents say they don’t know of any election or any sarpanch. “Who is he? Anyway, who cares. We don’t vote and we don’t care,” says one. Hundreds of people were declared elected unopposed as participation was thin in 2018. Many areas such as Pulwama saw no polling at all in the election. With the removal of special provisions, Jammu and Kashmir is moving towards a three-tier panchayati raj like the rest of the country. Whether or not New Delhi succeeds in cultivating a loyalist political class in the Valley, the existing one has been destroyed.

Mainstream parties had maintained that the people of Kashmir had rejected the two-nation theory that led to the creation of Pakistan as an Islamic country. The Abdullahs and the Muftis advocated adherence to India which they said was pluralistic and secular. Their slim popularity may or may not have been a reflection of the popularity of this position until now, but their eclipse is certainly corresponding to an overwhelming rejection of their political position.

Sharpening polarisation

The middle ground has been land-mined, and polarisation is sharpening, not only in party politics but also in religious and cultural spaces. The Centre’s decision to ban the extremist Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu and Kashmir and round up its leaders in the aftermath of the Pulwama suicide bombing in February may push religious conservatives to more fundamentalist Salafi groups, according to a local journalist who does not want to be named. “Muslim extremists are claiming victory for having said India is a Hindu country for long. The refrain is that while Hindu extremist groups get a free run and Muslims

are lynched in many parts of the country, we are targeted for our faith,” he says.

“I am willing to die and I am willing to let my children die. Rather than dying everyday, let this be done and over with,” says Hilal Ahmad, eatery owner in Pulwama. “*Yeh aar paar ka ladai hai* (This is a fight to the finish).” Hilal believes that there is an attempt to demographically alter Kashmir and crush its Muslims economically. But Hindus in Jammu and Buddhists in Ladakh are also unnerved by the possibility of demographic changes and potential changes in land ownership. Even the BJP leaders in Jammu have called for protection of the domicile rights of the State’s people. The government clarified this week that nobody would be forced to sell land.

While Islamist extremists are gloating over the march of Hindutva in India, the moderate voices are lamenting the turn of events. “What has India done to those who swore by its Constitution? From the Governor to Union Ministers, the government lied ahead of August 5 that there were terrorist threats that required evacuation of people and deployment of extra troops. Is this how democracies function? Can you count how many Articles of the Constitution are being violated here?” asks Kamran Ali, a 24-year-old journalism student in Pulwama. “Can you see my knees shaking? I have lived half my life under shutdown. I know that whatever happens tomorrow is not going to be good.”

The 70-year-old standing next to him sees a remarkable communal shift in the current government in New Delhi compared to previous regimes. “This approach towards us is driven by the anti-Muslim ideology of the BJP. Modi and Amit Shah are using our suffering to tell the rest of India that they are strong leaders. It is all meant for domestic politics in the rest of India, and this is no different from the way Pakistani politicians drum up support in our name and reinforce their power,” he says. “This has nothing to do with the interest of the Kashmiri people.”

‘Everything is normal’

“But you don’t write these things, okay? Write that everything is normal. Otherwise you will be labelled anti-national in India,” a young man in Pampore jokes.

The overriding sentiment in Kashmir is not *azadi* but the deep revulsion and contempt towards the Indian media, particularly TV channels that blare vitriol and threats into their drawing rooms every evening. Soldiers are now intimate enemies of the Kashmiri people but TV anchors have become their constant tormentors. “Yes, soldiers enter our homes off and on, and can be nasty. We try to keep off them. But the Indian media’s falsehood about Kashmir and the situation here is nothing less than violence,” says Junaid. “We switch them off now.” Kashmiris get to make that choice, as of now.

FROM PAGE ONE

312 Indian-origin Sikhs out of ‘adverse list’

On August 10, 2016, the then home minister Rajnath Singh told the Parliament in a written reply that “government reviewed cases of foreign nationals of Indian origin in the negative list and decided to delete the names of 225 such persons from it.”

This was in response to a question from Rajya Sabha MP Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa on whether Government maintained any blacklist debarring some persons, who went overseas during operation Blue Star, from visiting Punjab.

CBI summons former Kolkata police chief

The High Court emphasised that the investigation in the scam was being carried out as per the orders of the Supreme Court.

It said Mr. Kumar had been issued summons under Section 160 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Justice Mitra said repeated questioning was a part of investigation and the question of acting beyond its jurisdiction did not arise.

Dismissing arguments made by Mr. Kumar’s counsel, the court said the issuance of notice did not mean that the investigating officer was conducting the investigation in a biased manner.

“No one is above the law and the petitioner cannot

seek special protection,” Justice Mitra said. Mr. Kumar remained a witness and not an accused till today. Any arrest by the Investigating Officer should be as per provisions of the law, she pointed out.

The court cited a few judgments, saying fair investigation was a part of constitutional rights.

Mr. Kumar was part of the SIT probing the multi-crore scam before the CBI took over the investigation in May 2014. The CBI’s allegations against Mr. Kumar involves “suppression of evidence.”

Earlier this year, the High Court provided relief to Mr. Kumar by extending his interim bail petition a few times since May.

Rajasthan launches information portal

“We will not let this happen and will never allow this path-breaking law to lose its teeth. This portal displays our government’s resolve for strict enforcement of RTI Act.”

Ms. Roy said the portal would eventually turn out to be an effective medium for “digital dialogue” with the people as well as a strong instrument for ensuring transparency in governance. She applauded the State government’s action to combine technology, justice and information and said the ci-

vil society would take RTI movement to the masses.

Information kiosks

The State government will set up information kiosks in village panchayats and self-service e-mitra centres in the towns to enable the people to access the information useful for them. A message of Congress president and UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi praising the initiative and expressing the hope that it would strengthen the spirit of the RTI Act, was also telecast.

Students lodge complaint

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GHAZIABAD

A group of Aligarh Muslim University students has complained to the district

administration after some right-wing leaders asked a local college in Aligarh to ban burqas and skull caps on the campus premises.

SC asks govt. if it plans to link social media, Aadhaar

Court will hear Facebook’s petition to bunch all Aadhaar cases on Sept. 24

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday decided to hear a plea by Facebook to call forth petitions pending in various High Courts concerning the linking of social media accounts of users with their Aadhaar numbers.

A Bench of Justices Deepak Gupta and Aniruddha Bose scheduled the case for hearing on September 24.

“We will only be hearing on the question of transfer

and will not look into the merits,” Justice Gupta said.

Facebook wants the apex court to transfer the pending petitions to itself and decide them finally. The company has contended that any rule to enforce the linking of Aadhaar with social media accounts would be an invasion of privacy, which has been affirmed as a fundamental right by the Supreme Court.

The Bench made the Centre a party to the proceedings. Justice Gupta said



the court wants to know whether the Centre was working on any law on linking Aadhaar or an authentic government identity proof with social media accounts. It would decide the transfer with an eye on the government’s plans in this regard. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, for the Centre, hinted

‘If Shah Bano case verdict can be reversed, why not traffic fines?’

Maharashtra Transport Minister wants penalties reduced

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

If a court decision in the Shah Bano case could be reversed then why couldn’t amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act that have raised traffic fines manifold also be rolled back, Maharashtra’s Transport Minister Divakar Raote asked on Friday.

Poll-bound Maharashtra has decided to put on hold the implementation of the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019, and termed the new fines ‘exorbitant’. Mr. Raote has also written a

letter to Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari requesting reductions in the fines.

“People’s sentiments need to be taken into consideration always,” said Mr. Raote, addressing a press conference. “If a Shah Bano case verdict can be reversed owing to public sentiment, then similarly people’s sentiments have to be considered here as well,” he said.

The Shah Bano case verdict is considered one of the milestones in Indian judiciary, where the Supreme Court upheld her right to re-

ceive maintenance from her divorced husband. However, the verdict was overturned by the then Congress government through the enactment of a legislation in Parliament, which in turn came under sharp criticism from the Opposition of surrendering to a section of the Muslim community.

In a separate press conference in Mumbai, Mr. Gadkari had said that Mr. Raote had been a part of the committee of ministers that gave its approval to the amendments in the law.

Sonia discusses governance with CMs from Congress-ruled States

Meeting lays emphasis on better coordination with party functionaries

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Friday chaired a meeting of Chief Ministers of Congress-ruled Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Punjab and Puducherry to review the functioning of the State governments in fulfilling promises made by the party.

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, senior leader A.K. Antony, Congress general secretary K.C. Venugopal and party treasurer Ahmed Patel were also part of the meetings chaired by the Congress chief.

“Reviewing the details, Shrimati Gandhi emphasised the need to put in place an effective system for monitoring and implementation of the key manifesto commitments that the Congress Party had made in the run up to the Assembly Elections,” read a statement released by the All India Congress Committee.

In the backdrop of open factionalism in Congress-ruled Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, there were also discussions on better coordination between the State gov-



Focus on NRC: Congress president Sonia Gandhi, senior leader Manmohan Singh and party leaders from northeastern States after a meeting in New Delhi on Friday. •PTI

vernments and the party functionaries.

“The details of systems put into place to ensure effective coordination between the party organisation and the governments in these States were also discussed, so as to ensure that working in tandem, all the programmes of the government and commitment of the party could be taken seamlessly to the people,” the statement added.

In his remarks, Dr Manmohan Singh told the Chief Ministers that the recent slowdown would not reverse unless the goods and services tax (GST) is simplified.

“Punjab Chief Minister

Amarinder Singh pointed out that by offering power at reasonable rates, the State has seen a revival in investment and that will create jobs,” Sunil Jharkhar, the Punjab Congress chief, told *The Hindu*.

Earlier in the day, Ms. Gandhi met a delegation of leaders from the north-eastern States to discuss the issue of the National Register of Citizens and the proposed Citizenship Amendment Bill.

“It was decided that Congress will make every effort to help all the genuine citizens who were left out of NRC,” Congress legislature party leader of Assam Debabrata Saikia told reporters.

Priyanka uses cricket analogy to stump govt.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Friday used a cricketing analogy to take a dig at the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government over the state of the economy.

“For taking a catch, it is important to keep your eyes on the ball and having the true spirit of the game. Otherwise you will keep blaming gravity, Math, Ola-Uber. Issued in public interest for Indian economy,” Ms. Vadra said in a tweet.

Her comments came a day after Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal claimed that “math did not help Albert Einstein discover gravity” and that is why the government’s ambitious plan of nearly doubling the economy to \$5 trillion by 2024 should not be viewed through the prism of mathematics.

Made a mistake on Einstein: Piyush Goyal

It was a slip of tongue, says Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Union Minister for Railways Piyush Goyal on Friday said that he made a mistake owing to a “slip of tongue” and said Albert Einstein instead of Isaac Newton.

“We all get the opportunity to make mistakes. In fact the person whose name I took by mistake, Mr. Einstein said and I quote ‘A person who never made a mistake, never tried anything new.’ I am not among those who is afraid of making a mistake,” Mr. Goyal said.

He added that as soon as he realised the mistake he clarified the context in which he made the statement and referred to the need to find new innovative ways to build a \$5 trillion dollar economy in the next five years, out of which exports would account for 20% or \$1 trillion.

“Unfortunately, the context took a backseat and the mistake was highlighted. I thought I should take this opportunity to accept on a public platform that I made a mistake,” Mr. Goyal said, at an event to flag off additional Rajdhani services between Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus in Mumbai and Hazrat Nizamud-



I am not among those who is afraid of making a mistake

PIYUSH GOYAL
Union Minister for Railways

din in Delhi along with a slew of passenger amenities across suburban stations in Mumbai.

He said innovation was necessary and “mistakes made by anybody will only lead to something better in the future.”

Mr. Goyal, on Sept. 12, told reporters during a media interaction following a meeting with the Board of Trade that people should not be too concerned with GDP maths. “Don’t get into those maths; those maths never helped Einstein discover gravity,” he said. “If he had only gone by structured formulae and what was past knowledge, I don’t think there would have been any innovation in this world.”

Ayodhya case: a devotee’s faith cannot be questioned, says SC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A worshipper’s unflinching faith in the Ramjanmabhumi cannot be questioned; it has to be accepted, the Supreme Court addressed senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, appearing for the Sunni Waqf Board, on Friday.

The Constitution Bench hearing the Ayodhya dispute appeals asked Mr. Dhavan to focus on the contention raised by the Hindu parties that even the *janam asthan* (birth place) is a juristic person.

“What are the features involved to conclude that an idol or even the *janam asthan* is a juristic person? Cull that out and address us,” Justice D.Y. Chandrachud told Mr. Dhavan.

The court’s remarks came in response to Mr. Dhavan’s contention that there was

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Uttar Pradesh government on Friday informed the Supreme Court that it has provided extra security cover to CBI judge S.K. Yadav, who is trying the Babri Masjid demolition cases against senior BJP leaders.

Prominent BJP and Sangh Parivar leaders like L.K. Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi

Security stepped up for judge

and Uma Bharti are accused of criminal conspiracy which led to the demolition of the 16th century Babri mosque in Ayodhya by kar sevaks on December 6, 1992. In a notification produced in court, the U.P. government said Mr. Yadav has been provided a house suited to the status of a district judge, a security layer and staff along with an official vehicle.

hardly any evidence to back the faith of the Hindus in the *janam asthan* from “time immemorial”.

Mr. Dhavan had also questioned the deity’s claim in the Ayodhya title suit. But Justice Chandrachud repeated his earlier question to the

Hindu parties to Mr. Dhavan also. “When a place assumes the character of a juridical person by virtue of birth of a deity or marriage of a deity, then would not areas abutting the spot where the garlands were exchanged also become part of it?”

Parliamentary panels are being delayed: Oppn.

Notification expected in a few days

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

Opposition parties have slammed the government for the delay in the formation of parliamentary committees amid speculations that the BJP government may be keen on keeping many of the significant panels with itself.

According to sources, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi is holding the last round of meetings with Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

Government sources said that the notification will be out in the next few days.

In 2014, the committees were notified on September 1, less than three months after the process was started. In 2009, during the United Progressive Alliance term, it was notified on August 31. And in 2004, it was constituted by August 5.

Mr. Joshi told *The Hindu* that the committees’ composition had been finalised and submitted to the presiding officers of both the Houses. The Congress said the delay showed the government’s wish to bypass the parliamentary process.

“This is unprecedented. More than three months after the formation of the 17th Lok Sabha, the government has failed to constitute the committees. This shows its

disdain for the parliamentary process. They want to stall any kind of scrutiny into the working of the Ministries or legislations,” Lok Sabha Chief Whip for the Congress Kodikunnil Suresh said.

Mr. Joshi has formally conveyed to the Congress that the External Affairs and Finance committees will not be conceded to it. They were headed by Shashi Tharoor and Veerappa Moily respectively in the last Lok Sabha session.

Numerical strength

“It is always decided on the basis of numerical strength and this time around too it will be done similar way,” Mr. Joshi said.

The Rashtriya Janata Dal’s Rajya Sabha member Manoj Jha said, “The standing committees are called mini Parliament. It is very clear that not only do they [the BJP] not believe in a functioning and sensible Parliament, they also want to kill the idea of mini Parliament in the form of standing and select committees.”

CPI general secretary D. Raja said, “The delay helps them because this way they need not send any legislations to standing committees for any parliamentary scrutiny or analysis. This is a way to undermine the laid down procedures.”

Big leap for Naval variant of LCA Tejas

Flight path
A brief timeline of the development of the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas, a 4.5 generation, light weight, multirole fighter
1983 DRDO gets permission to build the jet
2001 LCA performs maiden successful flight
2011 Receives Initial Operational Clearance-I
2013 Receives Initial Operational Clearance-II
Feb. 2019 Receives Final Operational Clearance
Good show: The LCA after clearing the test at a facility in Goa on Friday.
THE MACHINE
The naval version has stronger landing gears to absorb forces exerted by the ski jump ramp during take-off, allowing it to be airborne from a much shorter runway on the carrier deck
NAVAL VARIANT
April 2012: Naval variant makes its maiden flight; two prototypes have been flying as part of the development
Dec. 2014: First prototype

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The naval variant of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas made a successful short arrested landing on the Shore Based Test Facility (SBTF) in Goa on Friday. This is a big step forward in the delayed project for the LCA to eventually operate from an aircraft carrier.
"Today, the first-ever arrested landing of LCA [Navy] at the shore-based test facility at INS Hansa Goa, will pave the way for this indigenous platform to undertake aircraft carrier landing demonstration on board INS Vikramaditya," the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) said in a statement.
The LCA made its maiden successful trap on the SBTF with the tail hook of the aircraft connecting with the arrestor wire on the deck and coming to halt within a short distance, a defence source explained.
The naval LCA made its

maiden flight in April 2012 and two prototypes have been flying as part of the development. The first prototype (NP1) made a successful first flight in 2014.
"The flight lasted about 40 minutes and the aircraft carried out arrested landing on the SBTF within 90m as required," another defence source said. The aircraft, Naval Prototype (NP)-1, is a twin seater but was piloted only by chief test pilot Commodore J.A. Maolankar, the source added.
Tough landing gears
The SBTF, which replicates the flight deck of an aircraft carrier was specifically built to train naval pilots in the complex manoeuvres of landing on the short flight deck of an aircraft carrier before they move on to the actual carrier.
The naval LCA is designed with stronger landing gears to absorb forces exerted by the ski jump ramp during take-off, to be

airborne within 200 m and land within 100 m, as against 1,000 m required for normal runways. Its special flight control law mode allows hands-free take-off, relieving the pilot workload, as the aircraft leaps from the ramp and automatically puts the aircraft in an ascending trajectory, sources had stated.
In December 2016, then Navy Chief Adm Sunil Lanba said the current weight of the naval LCA with the underpowered engine did not allow it to fly from a carrier, he said.
The Navy is currently operating Russian MiG-29K fighters from INS Vikramaditya. They will also fly from the first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier Vikrant once it enters service.

'Permanent Residents law unchangeable'

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Jammu-based J&K National Panthers Party (NPP), headed by Prof. Bhim Singh, has asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to hold an all-party meeting on J&K, demanding that the previous law on Permanent Residents be retained.
"The law related to 'State Subjects' was enacted by Maharaja Hari Singh in 1927, when Permanent Residents of the State were given special status concerning land ownership. The law for Permanent Residents is unchangeable. The Constituent Assembly of India, in its declaration, had made it clear that the law will not be changed," said Prof. Singh.
He appealed to PM Modi to convene an urgent meeting of the National Integration Council so that all political parties and eminent persons could be involved in working out a joint programme for restoring the confidence of J&K residents. "There are about 35 parties that need to be involved," said Prof. Singh.
"Article 370 was not meant for special status. The special status is something which could be available to the entire State as was done by the Parliament under Article 371 for the northeastern States. The government has not been able to convey the benefits of revocation of Article 370's provisions," Prof. Singh said.
He also criticised the move to downgrade J&K into two Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir. "The downgrading has neither resolved any problem nor has it been accepted by the permanent residents of J&K," he said.

Plea to allow incoming calls in J&K

Kashmir youth leader Mir Junaaid cites worry over kin, children's education

DEVESH K. PANDEY
NEW DELHI

Kashmiri youth leader Mir Junaaid, who was part of the delegation of Panches and Sarpanches from the State that met Union Home Minister Amit Shah earlier this month, has demanded the immediate lifting of the communication blackout.
"The government can at least allow incoming calls so that people are able to check on their relatives and friends. Owing to the continuing crisis, we have lost more than ₹3,600 crore so far...children's education is suffering," he said.
Stating that Mr. Shah had, during the meeting, said the communication would be

restored within 25 days, Mr. Junaaid said he had also demanded Statehood, early conduct of the block development council polls, security and insurance for the grass-root politicians.
"I urge Prime Minister Narendra Modi to fulfil his promise, made from the ramparts of Red Fort [on Independence Day], that he would extend all support to those aspiring to join politics in the State. I have sought an appointment with him, but there is no response so far," said Mr. Junaaid.
Mr. Junaaid, who was the first president of Kashmir University Students' Union, said in the previous regimes, voices of the common men



Mir Junaaid

were stifled, the youth were robbed of opportunities and there was little focus on development.
"People in Kashmir are happy that the old political structure, which served the interests of only few families, has been destroyed. Almost 90% of Article 370 had already been diluted by them through various ways,"

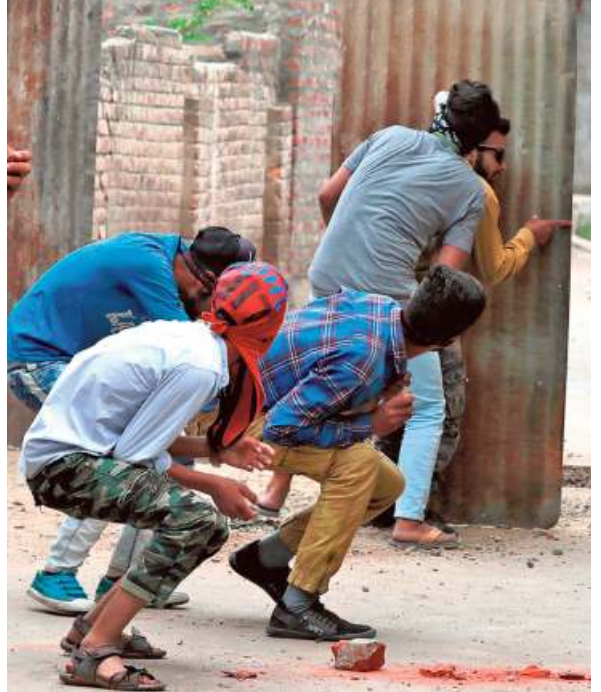
said the youth leader.
He pointed out that after the special status was taken away, none of the three parliamentarians from the State had resigned in protest.
"New leadership will emerge from grass-root democratic politics. In the recent panchayat level polls, 2,368 of the 2774 candidates supported by us were elected. Of them, a record number of 712 women were elected," said Mr. Junaaid.
Mr. Junaaid said the government should ensure that the identity, culture, tradition and language of the people of Kashmir was preserved.
The youth leader plans to float a political outfit with proportional representation from all sections of Kashmir, including 25% reservation for women.

Militants hold PDP leader, family hostage

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAMMU

Three armed militants held hostage Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) district president Sheikh Nasir and his family in Jammu's Kishtwar on Thursday, before snatching the service rifle of the leader's personal security officer and driving away in the family's car. Authorities have imposed a curfew in the town.
"The family, which reported the incident around 11 a.m. on Friday, said at least three militants took them hostage late on Thursday evening ... A search operation has been launched to nab the militants and recover the vehicle," deputy commissioner, Kishtwar, Angrez Singh, told The Hindu.

Tense situation



Taking cover: Protesters hiding behind tin sheets during a clash with security forces after Friday prayers in Srinagar. Five protesters were injured in a clash in Saura area.

Pak. is hub of terrorism: India at UN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
UNITED NATIONS

Describing Pakistan as the "hub of terrorism", India has strongly hit back at the country saying that Islamabad misused the UN forum to spread "baseless and deceitful" narratives about it, after Pakistan's envoy to the UN Maleeha Lodhi raised the Kashmir issue during a General Assembly session on Friday.
"There has been yet another attempt by one delegation to misuse this forum to spread baseless and deceitful narratives about my country. Such attempts have not succeeded earlier and will not succeed now," First Secretary in the Permanent Mission of India to the UN Sandeep Kumar Bayyapu said.

Army to get indigenous tank ammunition

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, on Friday approved indigenous development of ammunition for the Army's T-72 and T-90 tanks worth approximately ₹2,000 crores, which would enhance the enemy armour penetration capability.

Konkan Housing and Area Development Board
A REGIONAL UNIT OF (MAHARASHTRA HOUSING AND AREA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY)
TENDER NOTICE
E-Tender Notice No.: EE-II/KB/02/of 2019-20
Main Portal: https://mahatenders.gov.in MHADA Portal: https://mhada.gov.in
1.1) Executive Engineer-II, Konkan Housing and Area Development Board (A regional unit of MHADA), Room No. 169, Mezzanine Floor, Griha Nirman Bhavan, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400 051, Ph. No. (022) 66405021/23 through the process of e-tendering invites digitally signed & unconditional online tenders in Form "C" Open E-Tender from prospective bidders for following works.
1.2) Details of e-Tender:
Sr. No. Name of Work Tentative No. of Tenements Approx. Value of Work (₹ in Lacs) Cost of Blank e-Tender Form (Non-Refundable) (₹ in Lacs) Earnest Money @ 0.5% (₹ in Lacs) Security Deposit @ 1% (₹ in Lacs) Time Limit (in Calendar Months)
1. Survey, Soil Investigation, Planning, Designing, Construction & Obtaining all relevant permissions and required Completion Certificate from concerned Local Authority on Lump-Sum Turn-Key basis for Construction of EWS, LIG Residential / Commercial Tenements on Land bearing S.No. 39 (p), 11A/1, at Village - Jogale, Tal-Dapoli, Dist. Ratnagiri. 160 EWS T/s 78 LIG T/s 6 Shops 1,379 ₹ 3,000/- + 360/- (GST) 6.90 13.79 24 Months
2. Survey, Soil Investigation, Planning, Designing, Construction & Obtaining all relevant permissions and required Completion Certificate from concerned Local Authority on Lump-Sum Turn - Key basis for Construction of EWS, LIG Residential / Commercial Tenements on Land bearing Survey No. 105A, Hissa No. 2, S. No. 106C Hissa No. 1C at Ravtale, Tal - Chiplun, Dist - Ratnagiri. 418 EWS T/s 17 Shops 2,396 ₹ 3000/- + 360/- (GST) 11.98 23.96 24 Months
1.3) Online e-Tender Schedule:
Sr. No. Stage Description Start Date and Time
1. Document Sale Start 16/09/2019 at 11.00 am
2. Pre-Bid Meeting 25/09/2019 at 3.30 pm in the "Bharat Ratna Gulzarilal Nanda" Meeting Hall at 3rd Floor, Griha Nirman Bhavan
3. Document Sale End 10/10/2019 at 3.30 pm
4. Bid Submission Start 16/09/2019 at 11.00 am
5. Bid Submission End 10/10/2019 at 5.30 pm
6. Technical Bid Opening 15/10/2019 at 3.30 pm in the office of the Dy.Chief Engg/KB
7. Financial Bid Opening Financial bid opening will be intimated online separately after Technical bid scrutiny and appraisal.
1.4) Blank tender document and other details can be downloaded by the Bidder from website https://mahatenders.gov.in The tenders shall only be received online in two envelopes system. Bids will be opened by Deputy Chief Engineer / Konkan Board on dated 15/10/2019 or thereafter. All the notifications and detailed terms and conditions regarding this tender notice hereafter will be published online on website https://mahatenders.gov.in and MHADA website - https://mhada.gov.in
1.5) All Eligible/Interested Bidders who want to participate in tendering process should compulsory get enrolled on e-tendering portal https://mahatenders.gov.in in the appropriate category applicable to them.
1.6) Pre-Bid Conference will be conducted by the Chief Engineer-III/A as mentioned above at "Bharat Ratna Gulzarilal Nanda" Meeting Hall, 3rd Floor, Griha Nirman Bhavan, Kalanagar, Bandra (East), Mumbai.
1.7) In case of any queries, difficulties in submission of online tender, bidders may contact to the service provider on any working day on contact No.18002337315 (toll free no.), e-mail on eproc.support@mahatenders.gov.in
1.8) Other terms and conditions are displayed in online e-tender forms. Right to reject any or all bids/offers without assigning any reason thereof is reserved by Competent Authority/MHADA.
1.9) Conditional tender shall not be considered and shall be summarily rejected.
Sd/- Executive Engineer - II K. H. & A. D. Board
CPRO/A/381

Wheels India Limited
Regd Office : 21, Patullas Road, Chennai - 600 002
CIN : L35921TN1960PLC004175
Phone : 044-2623 4300; Fax : 044-26257121
Website : www.wheelsindia.com
Invites offers from interested parties for purchase of Mild Steel scrap items, for the two month period OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2019.
Details of the items available for disposal and tender terms and conditions can be had from the Company on written request.
Sealed offers can be submitted to the Vice President (Supply Chain), Wheels India Limited, Padli, Chennai - 600 050 to reach on or before 27th SEPTEMBER 2019.

CMPDI CENTRAL MINE PLANNING & DESIGN INSTITUTE LIMITED
Tender Notice No. : CMPDI/MM/GT/19-20/007
Offers are invited through E-Tendering (ON-LINE BIDDING) for the following :-
S.N. Tender No. Description
1) CMPDI/MM/GT/19-20/2041/RK/RTK-DGPS/ET Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Real Time Kinematic (RTK) Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS) with SBAS Subscription
2) CMPDI/MM/GT/19-20/4047/AK/RSD Sampler Supply of Bench Top Rotating Sample Divider
3) CMPDI/MM/GT/19-20/4039/AK/LSDT Equipment Supply of Automatic Servo Controlled Large Shear Box Testing System
Estimated Cost : Sl. No. (1) ₹ 1,60,00,000/-, (2) ₹ 26,80,000/-, (3) ₹ 1,40,00,000/- Earnest Money : Sl. No. (1) ₹ 3,20,000/-, (2) ₹ 53,60,000/-, (3) ₹ 2,80,000/- No tender fee is payable for above tender(s). Tender Document and Tender Details of the above tender(s) can be downloaded free of cost from www.cmpdi.co.in, eprocure.gov.in and www.coalindiatenders.nic.in. 16.09.2019 onwards. For On-line Bidding, Bidders should possess Class II/III Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and should enroll themselves at https://www.coalindiatenders.nic.in Information regarding the procedure for enrolment, bidding etc. is available on the same website. GM (MM)

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, (Project-West) Division, Joint Commissioner (West) Office Premises, 2nd Floor, Sampige Road, Sheshadripuram, Bengaluru - 20.
No: EE/P-W/TEND/07/2019-20 Date: 13.09.2019
INVITATION FOR TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT) (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only) (Two Cover System)
The Executive Engineer, Project (West) Division, BBMP, Bengaluru invites Short term tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES/National Highway or any State Government Organisations for the Construction of work detailed in the table below.
Name of the Work Appx. Amount put to Tender (₹ in Lakhs) EMD (₹) Standard Bid Document
Construction of Jai Hanuman Vyayama Shala in Ward No-77. 185.00 2,80,000 KW-4
Calendar of Events : (1) Tender documents may be downloaded in the e-procurement portal Government of Karnataka from 18.09.2019. (2) Tenders must be submitted through e-proc on or before 27.09.2019 upto 4:00 pm. (3) Technical Bids will be opened in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Project (West) Division on 30.09.2019 after 4:30 pm. (4) Financial Bids will be opened in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Project (West) Division on 03.10.2019 after 4:30 pm (if possible). (5) Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on 23.09.2019 at 3:30 pm in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Project (West) Division. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in
Sd/- Executive Engineer - (Project-West) Division
Pay Development Charges - Help to Develop Bengaluru

भारतीयबीमा विनियामक और विकास प्राधिकरण
INSURANCE REGULATORY AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF INDIA
Sy No. 115/1, Financial District, Nanakramguda, Gachibowli, Hyderabad - 500032 Ph: (040) 20204117
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
IRDAI invites online bids from eligible bidders for Revamping of its Integrated Grievance Management System (IGMS), replacement of Hardware, supply of Software licenses, provide Hosting and maintenance for a period of 7 years. For details, please visit www.irdai.gov.in or eprocure.gov.in.
Executive Director

AHMEDABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
CENTRAL WORKSHOP
E Tender Notice
Tender No. 18/2019-20 for SITC of RTS Vehicles & Machineries along with comprehensive O & M Contract for 5 years as per AMC tender Specifications, scope of work & Conditions.
Online Submission upto Date: 22/10/2019 up to 18:00 Hrs.
Details and Tenders available on www.amc.nprocure.com and www.ahmedabadcity.gov.in
Dy. Municipal Commissioner (Central Workshop)
For Any AMC Complain Please Dial : 155303

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER KALABURAGI
Opp. Mini Soudha, Aiywan-e-Shahi Road, Kalaburgi-585 102.
Tel: 08472-220817, Fax: 08472-260818. E-mail: kwbceklb14@gmail.com
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement portal only)
Item-rate Tenders are invited for the following works through e-Procurement portal from eligible Agency/Contractor as detailed below:
Package No. KWB/CE(K)/TEC/AE-2/GVT-JGD/ADD-2/780/2019-20 Date: 12-09-2019. Work indent in e-procurement portal: KUWSDB/2019-20/PM/WORK_INDENT_2544
Name & Description of Work: Part-I: Providing Aerators & allied accessories to Existing 14 MLD STP in Gangavathi City under AMRUT Additional Grants-2. PART-II: O&M of existing STP, Aerator & allied accessories for period of five under AMRUT Additional Grant-2.
Approx. value of work: Rs. 2,59,40,711.33 (Excluding GST). EMD: Rs. 3,90,000/-. Tender processing fee: As per e-procurement portal. Period of completion (including monsoon): 04 (Four) months.
Calendar of Events
1 Date & Time for Commencement of downloading of tender documents 14.09.2019 after 12.30 Hrs.
2 Last Date & Time for receipt of queries 27.09.2019 upto 11.00 Hrs.
3 Date & Time for Pre-Bid Meeting 27.09.2019 at 11.30 Hrs.
4 Last Date & Time for submission/ uploading of the tender in e-procurement portal 14.10.2019 upto 17.30 Hrs.
5 Date & time of opening of the Technical tenders 19.10.2019 after 11.00 Hrs.
6 Date & time of opening of the Financial tenders Will be notified later
Tenderers should quote the rates excluding GST. Prevailing GST will be paid separately at the time of payment.
For further details, the Office of the Chief Engineer, KUWS&D Board, Kalaburagi, may please be contacted or website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in or e-Procurement helpdesk: 080-25501216/25501227. e-mail support: hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com.
Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER
KUWS & D BOARD, Kalaburagi Zone, Kalaburagi.

Biden fights off rivals over healthcare

Democratic frontrunner invokes Obama’s name and policy to attack opponents Warren and Sanders

JONATHAN MARTIN
ALEXANDER BURNS
HOUSTON

The leading Democratic presidential candidates split sharply over the issue of healthcare in a debate on Thursday night, exposing the gulf between former Vice President Joe Biden’s careful moderate politics and the transformational liberal ambitions of Senators Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Bernie Sanders of Vermont.

Mr. Biden, facing all of his closest competitors for the first time in a debate, quickly took the initiative to challenge Ms. Warren and Mr. Sanders for supporting a “Medicare for All”-style healthcare system that would displace the existing forms of private insurance. Cloaking himself in the accomplishments of the Obama administration, Mr. Biden branded Ms. Warren as seeking to upend the progress of the Affordable Care Act.

“I know the Senator says she’s with Bernie – well, I’m



Senator Bernie Sanders, former V-P Joe Biden and Senator Elizabeth Warren. • REUTERS

for Barack,” Mr. Biden jabbed, attacking the cost of a single-payer programme: “How are we going to pay for it?”

Ms. Warren and Mr. Sanders, flanking Mr. Biden onstage, pushed back in tandem, dismissing Mr. Biden’s criticism and promising that a government-managed health insurance system would ultimately be less expensive for consumers than the private insurance they currently buy. Ms. Warren credited former President

Barack Obama with having “fundamentally transformed healthcare in America” but said the country needed to go further.

Cost factor

“The richest individuals and the biggest corporations are going to pay more, and middle-class families are going to pay less,” she said.

But asked twice by a moderator whether she would acknowledge that the taxes of middle-income Americans would go up under her pro-

posal, she declined to respond directly.

The back and forth among the three leading contenders over healthcare was a continuation of the discussion that dominated the first two debates and illustrated the fierce divisions in the party over what approach best honours Obama’s legacy – building upon the Affordable Care Act or replacing it entirely with a single-payer system.

In a tart exchange that channelled their profound

philosophical differences, Mr. Sanders held up Canada as a country that provided universal coverage for a lower total cost, prompting Mr. Biden to jump in: “This is America.”

Mr. Sanders fired back: “Americans don’t want to pay twice as much as other countries.”

The remaining field of candidates arrayed themselves around the same philosophical dividing line, most of them aligning more closely with Mr. Biden.

Senator Amy Klobuchar derided Mr. Sanders’ single-payer Bill as a “bad idea,” while Mayor Pete Buttigieg accused Mr. Sanders and Ms. Warren of seeking to take away choice from consumers.

While Mr. Biden remains the front-runner in the Democratic race, he has yet to produce the kind of commanding debate performance that might excite undecided Democrats or put to rest their unease about his readiness for a contest with President Trump. NY TIMES

Carrie Lam promises housing reforms, jobs

Hong Kong hill shines in protest light



Olive branch: Demonstrators holding up their mobile phone at the Peak, a tourist spot in Hong Kong. • AP

REUTERS
HONG KONG

Hong Kong pro-democracy protesters took to the hills to form flashlight-carrying human chains on Friday, using the colourful Mid-Autumn Festival as a backdrop to the latest in more than three months of sometimes violent unrest.

The peaceful protests, on a day when families traditionally gather to gaze at the moon and eat mooncakes, came after Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam promised to focus on housing and jobs to

try to end the turmoil. “Housing and people’s livelihoods are the main priorities,” Ms. Lam said. “The government will add to housing supply measures which will be continuously put in place and not missed.”

Hong Kong has some of the world’s most expensive real estate and many people say the city’s housing policy is unfair, benefiting the rich while forcing the less well-off to live with their parents or rent “shoe box” apartments at exorbitant prices.

Google search to show original news reporting

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SAN FRANCISCO

Original reporting will be highlighted in Google’s search results, the company said as it announced changes to its algorithm.

The company has come under increasing criticism, mainly because of its algorithms that newspapers have often blamed for plummeting online traffic and the industry’s decline.

Explaining some of the changes, Google’s vice president of news Richard Gingras said stories that were critically important and labour intensive would be promoted. Articles that demonstrated “original, in-depth and investigative reporting,” would be given the highest possible rating by reviewers.

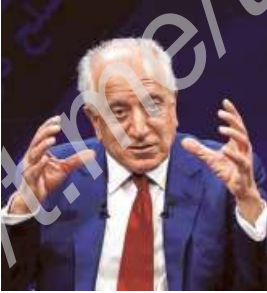
These reviewers – about 10,000 people whose feedback contributes to algorithm – will also determine the publisher’s reputation for original reporting, promoting outlets that have been awarded Pulitzer Prizes, for example.

U.S. House subpoenas envoy to U.S.-Taliban talks

Panel wants Khalilzad to explain to it how the talks went off the rails

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON DC

Frustrated by the absence of a clearly communicated strategy on Afghanistan and a lack of responsiveness to invitations issued by it, the U.S. House of Representatives’ Foreign Affairs Committee has subpoenaed the U.S. envoy to the U.S.-Taliban negotiations, Zalmay Khalilzad, to testify before it on Thursday.



Zalmay Khalilzad. File

and this is the first subpoena for the Committee in the current Congress.

It had invited Mr. Khalilzad to testify before it in February, April as well as earlier this month, when Mr. Engel wrote to Mr. Khalilzad, saying, “I do not consider your testimony at this hearing optional.” In March, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo declined to confirm that he would compel Mr. Khalilzad to testify before the Committee, adding that while he was happy to share

the State Department’s strategy on Afghanistan, details of negotiations had to stay within “a very small circle”.

“For months, we haven’t been able to get answers on the Afghanistan peace plan, and now the President is saying the plan is dead. We need to hear directly from the Administration’s point person on Afghanistan to understand how this process went off the rails,” Mr. Engel said, adding that he expected to see Mr. Khalilzad in the hearing room.

Taliban team arrives in Moscow

ASSOCIATED PRESS
ISLAMABAD

A Taliban negotiating team, led by Mullah Sher Mohammad Stanikzai, has arrived in Moscow, just days after the collapse of talks with the U.S.

Moscow has often been accused of aiding the Taliban as a safeguard against an IS affiliate linked to the Central Asian terrorist group, the Islamic Movement of Afghanistan.

‘Cautiously optimistic’ on Brexit deal: Johnson

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Friday he was “cautiously optimistic” about striking a Brexit deal ahead of his first face-to-face talks with EU chiefs next week.

Mr. Johnson is due to meet European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and the EU’s chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier in Luxembourg on Monday.

Mr. Johnson’s upbeat tone on striking a divorce deal with the EU in time for Britain’s scheduled October 31 departure date is in marked contrast with the mood from Brussels.

Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar said the gap between London and Brussels remained “very wide”.

On the talks with Mr. Juncker and Mr. Barnier, he said, “I am cautiously optimistic. Whatever happens, we’ll come out on Oct. 31.”

ELSEWHERE



Greta Thunberg takes climate protest to Trump

WASHINGTON

Swedish teenager Greta Thunberg, who has inspired worldwide student strikes against climate change, led a protest outside the White House on Friday to press the U.S. government to make climate commitments. REUTERS

At least 10 dead in Rio hospital blaze

RIO DE JANEIRO

At least 10 people died in a fire at Badim hospital in Rio de Janeiro, with reports suggesting that a short circuit in a generator could have sparked the blaze. The fire sent medical staff into a flurry to try to evacuate scores of patients. AFP

Four Sikh men drown in sewage tank in Italy

CO₂ fumes from manure cause of death

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ROME

Four Indian-origin Sikh men drowned in a sewage tank on a cattle farm in northern Italy due to the carbon dioxide fumes coming out from the cow manure, according to media reports.

The incident happened on Thursday at a cattle farm in Arena Po near Pavia, a city in south Milan, ANSA news agency reported on Thursday.

Out of the deceased, two were brothers – Prem, 48, and Tarsem Singh, 45 – who were running the farm.

The other two were workers, identified as Arminder Singh, 29, and Manjinder Singh, 28.

Initial investigations re-

veal that the three men jumped to rescue a worker who was emptying the tank to use the manure as a fertiliser on the farm’s fields, the BBC reported.

Investigators suspect that the four died due to the carbon dioxide fumes coming from the cow manure, the report said.

The victims’ wives raised the alarm when the men failed to turn up for lunch.

They rushed to the scene and spotted one body in the sewage. The women then called in firefighters, who emptied the tank to recover all the bodies, the report said.

Italian media reported that the farm is one of the biggest in the Pavia region.

A warm reception for Moothon at TIFF

Nivin Pauly ventures into uncharted zones in a quest to find oneself in the film

NAMRATA JOSHI
TORONTO

On the face of it filmmaker-actor Geetu Mohandas’ sophomore film *Moothon* (*The Elder One*) is about the search for the lost elder brother that takes young Mulla all the way from the pristine, idyllic and tranquil home in the islands of Lakshadweep to the chaotic, violent, ruthless and ugly underbelly of Mumbai.

It is also a metaphorical, inner quest to find oneself by facing up to life’s vagaries. As Ms. Mohandas herself put it, in a lively session with the audience at the Scotiabank theatre in downtown Toronto, it is about “the sense of identity and the crises within”.

However, at the heart of



The first look of Moothon. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Moothon lies an unforeseen, uncommon and extraordinarily tender love story that makes actor Nivin Pauly venture into hitherto uncharted zones. He is on top of things, be it expressing the ecstasy in finding an abundance of love amidst a shoal of fish or resorting to the religious/cultural practice of self flagellation to express the pain of

surreptitious, forbidden passion. “I can’t get a hold of myself,” he says, as a visibly broken and tormented Akbar who has nowhere to hide in the islands. The only option is to run away, from home and also from himself.

Ms. Mohandas jostles with interesting ideas – that of a rare fluidity when it comes to matters of both gender

and sexuality. “The idea was not to see gender but love,” she said in the audience interaction.

The film marks a unique collaboration of talent from Kerala and Bollywood. It has been co-produced by Anurag Kashyap, Ajay G. Rai of Jar Pictures, Vinod Kumar and Alan McAlex. Besides Mr. Pauly, Dileesh Pothan and Sanjana Dipu, it also stars Sobhita Dhulipala and Shashank Arora.

The film left the audience wondering about the ambiguous end, with Ms. Mohandas adding to their curiosity by putting primacy on their own individual interpretation than imposing any given “reading” of the ending.

(The writer is in Toronto at the invitation of TIFF)

Two Rohingya shot dead in Bangladesh

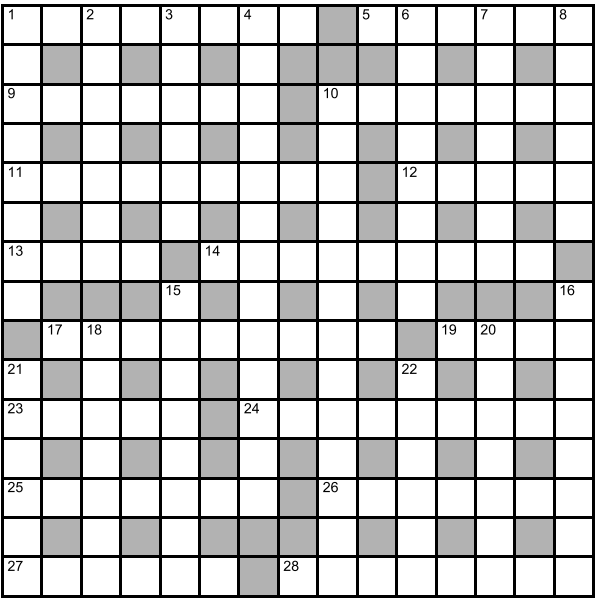
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
COX’S BAZAR

Two more Rohingya men were shot dead by officers on Friday in a southern Bangladesh border town, police said, amid a clampdown on the refugees after the killing of a ruling party official.

Police said the pair were accused of the murder of Omar Faruk, a youth wing official of the Awami League party, who was shot in the head by suspected Rohingya criminals late last month.

With the latest deaths, six Rohingya men allegedly involved in Faruk’s killing have been shot dead in alleged gunfights with police, according to a count by AFP and police sources.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12730



■ ACROSS

- 1 Particular pieces cut up by boy (8)
- 5 Short-tempered agent takes small bite (6)
- 9 Get angry about university involved in ruckus (5,2)
- 10 Valueless year with Russian manuscript (7)

- 11 Put on top, per spouse’s arrangement (9)
- 12 Other star repeatedly disrobed Greek character (5)
- 13 Every other veep not to blow off (4)
- 14 Desi spoiling child no main concern (4,5)
- 17 Ousts humble petitioners in the absence of in-charge (9)
- 19 Tamil leader’s regret is genuine (4)
- 23 Be uneconomical with a free set (5)
- 24 What examinees may appreciate – what may resolve a tie (5,4)
- 25 Sneaky about gallery that is dignified (7)
- 26 Start without leading trader – a couple of learners out to top the market (7)
- 27 Part of Pennsylvania very wooded (6)
- 28 Enquire about takes RAF put out (3,5)

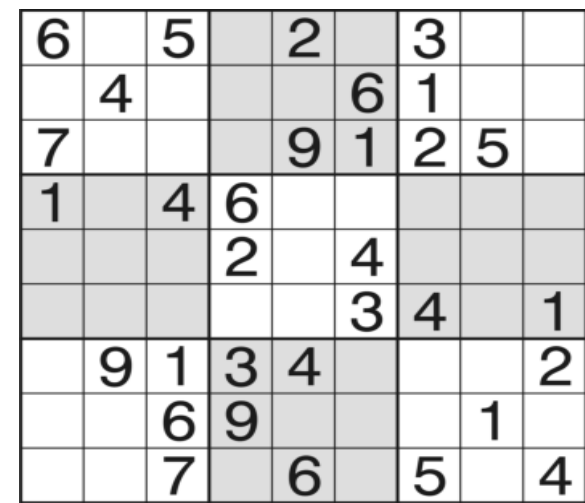
■ DOWN

- 1 Bear is up – almost. Heartily given to gushing... (8)

(set by Gridman)

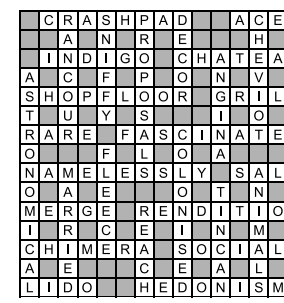
- 2 Is it barred for babies? Yes and no! (7)
- 3 What a judge does sometimes a waiter does many times (6)
- 4 Nearabout? (13)
- 6 Patronage catapults me in post (8)
- 7 Upstart leaves locale unfinished after blame’s up (7)
- 8 Last of many means to turn a lackey (3-3)
- 10 Talks of already dispatched food allowances not right (13)
- 15 One finally accepts exotic hamper containing English collectibles (8)
- 16 Mocking remark about fortunate setter (8)
- 18 Straighten out poor nuns’ endless talk in French (7)
- 20 Tailor Rani met for garments (7)
- 21 Distorts dance by topstar (6)
- 22 Staff gets retinue without one new slogan (6)

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 12729



Solution to yesterday’s Sudoku



FAITH

Negative becomes positive

Vallalar, in his Deivamanimalai, says that Lord Shanmukha treated his (Vallalar’s) drawbacks as good qualities. Manickavachagar expresses a similar sentiment, said M.A. Manickavelu, in a discourse. Manickavachagar says that his faults are like hills, and he prays to Lord Siva to treat these sins as good qualities! The story of Thiruneelanakka Nayanar shows how the Lord is kind, and appreciative of even little gestures of love that he show Him. He forgives what others see as faults or sins. Thiruneelanakka Nayanar lived in Sathamangai. He was well versed in the Vedas and his knowledge helped him see that the Vedas enjoined worship of Lord Siva. Every day he not only served the Lord, but also His devotees.

One day, he went to the temple with his wife to worship the Lord. After he completed the puja, Thiruneelanakka Nayanar, prostrated before the Lord. Even as he continued worship, a spider dropped onto the Linga. His wife, noticing this, blew away the spider. She acted like a mother, who, if she notices a spider on her baby, will blow it away from the child. But, Thiruneelanakka Nayanar, felt that what she had done was offensive to the Lord. He scolded her and said that by blowing on the linga, some of her saliva might have fallen on it, thereby polluting it. He performed expiatory rites, and left for home, leaving his wife behind in the temple.

That night, in his dream, the Lord appeared. The Lord showed the Nayanar His divine form. On the side where the lady had blown, there were no boils. But everywhere else, the Lord’s form was covered with boils, caused by the spider. Thus, the Lord showed that He was not offended even when the saliva of a devotee touched Him, for He knew of the love behind that gesture.

MARKET WATCH

	13-09-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	37,385	0.76
US Dollar	70.92	0.30
Gold	38,695	0.18
Brent oil	60.43	0.68

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	374.20	1.75
Asian Paints	1548.20	7.90
Axis Bank	674.25	11.35
Bajaj Auto	2878.20	26.00
Bajaj Finserv	7388.75	96.80
Bajaj Finance	3427.35	45.00
Bharti Airtel	343.05	-4.50
BPL	408.55	24.35
Britannia Ind	2674.60	-2.40
Cipla	469.00	1.20
Coal India	198.20	0.50
Dr Reddys Lab	2731.55	-35.50
Eicher Motors	16689.40	8.85
GAIL (India)	129.25	3.50
Grasim Ind	717.55	0.00
HCL Tech	1068.50	13.60
HDFC	2083.85	1.10
HDFC Bank	2257.45	-13.40
Hero MotoCorp	2776.60	35.85
Hindalco	200.35	3.25
Hind Unilever	1805.55	0.15
Indiabulls HFL	442.25	-7.15
ICICI Bank	413.40	10.70
Indusind Bank	1398.60	8.35
Bharti Infratel	254.40	3.55
Infosys	829.30	12.90
Indian OilCorp	130.10	5.70
ITC	239.90	-0.85
JSW Steel	226.20	4.15
Kotak Bank	1484.25	26.70
L&T	1363.45	1.05
M&M	551.25	7.65
Maruti Suzuki	6450.30	58.25
NTPC	124.05	1.80
ONGC	128.85	2.95
PowerGrid Corp	202.65	3.00
Reliance Ind	1225.60	15.25
State Bank	291.70	4.65
Sun Pharma	422.85	-4.95
Tata Motors	129.55	1.60
Tata Steel	367.35	2.30
TCS	2141.95	8.35
Tech Mahindra	709.50	3.95
Titan	1123.40	37.30
Ultra Tech Cement	4031.15	29.10
UPL	578.15	10.85
Vedanta	149.30	3.85
Wipro	245.35	0.80
YES Bank	68.55	0.60
Zee Entertainment	350.50	4.10

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on September 13

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	70.72	71.04
Euro	78.54	78.90
British Pound	88.07	88.47
Japanese Yen (100)	65.49	65.79
Chinese Yuan	9.99	10.04
Swiss Franc	71.75	72.08
Singapore Dollar	51.53	51.76
Canadian Dollar	53.45	53.71
Malaysian Ringgit	16.97	17.07

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

September 13 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses

Retail Silver (1g)	50.9	(51.3)
22 ct gold (1 g)	3612	(3659)

No production days at M&M go up to 17

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) Ltd. has announced an increase in the number of ‘no production days’ to up to 17 in the July to September quarter due to slow offtake of automobiles in the market.

“We wish to inform you that the company, as part of aligning its production with sales requirements, would be observing ‘no production days’ during the second quarter of the financial year 2019-2020, ranging between eight and 17 days in the automotive sector, and between one and 3 days in the farm equipment sector,” the company said in a filing.

“The management does not envisage any adverse impact on the availability of vehicles,” it added.

Equitas bank to take immediate steps for IPO

Bank eyes public offer by March 2020

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd. (ESFBL) will take steps to get listed through an initial public offering (IPO) by March 2020, said a top official.

“We will soon start the exercise of filing red herring prospectus,” said P.N. Vasudevan, MD and CEO, ESFBL.

“The shares will be listed by March 2020 under normal circumstances,” he said. Mr. Vasudevan added the bank is planning for an IPO since the draft scheme of arrangement between Equitas Holdings Limited (EHL) and ESFBL was rejected by the Securities and Exchange Board of India.

While granting an in-principle approval for the bank licence, the RBI had asked ESFBL to get the entity list-

Exports contract 6%, trade deficit widens marginally

Imports also witness contraction; iron ore exports grow by a whopping 357%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

India’s exports contracted 6.05% in August to \$26.13 billion, official data released on Friday showed. The trade deficit widened marginally to \$13.45 billion.

“Exports in August 2019 were \$26.13 billion, as compared to \$27.81 billion in August 2018, exhibiting a negative growth of 6.05%,” the government said in a release. “In rupee terms, exports were ₹1,85,881.11 crore in August 2019, as compared to ₹1,93,397.12 crore in August 2018, registering a negative growth of 3.89%.” The sectors that saw notable contraction in their exports include rice (-23.95%), other

Little cheer on trade front

Month	Exports*	Imports*	Trade deficit, \$ bn
April	0.64	4.48	15.33
May	3.93	4.31	15.36
June	(9.71)	(9.06)	15.28
July	2.25	(10.43)	13.43
August	(6.05)	(13.45)	13.45

* YEAR-ON-YEAR CHANGE, %

cereals (-41.8%), oil meals (-44.4%), and oil seeds (-31.8%). Iron ore exports,

notably, grew by a whopping 356.7%. “Imports in August 2019 were \$39.58 billion

(₹2,81,606.41 crore), which was 13.45% lower in dollar terms and 11.46% lower in rupee terms over imports of \$45.73 billion (₹3,18,043.86 crore) in August 2018.”

The major commodity groups that saw a contraction in imports in August include coal, coke and briquettes (-23.75%), organic and inorganic chemicals (-14.95%), petroleum, crude and products (-8.9%), electrical and non-electrical machinery (-8.8%), and electronic goods (-4.12%). The contraction in both exports and imports has meant that the trade deficit has widened only marginally in August from the \$13.43 billion in the previous month.

Unfair to single me out, says sacked ICRA CEO

‘Held responsible for collective failure’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Naresh Takkar, the former chief executive officer and managing director of rating agency ICRA, who was sacked in August, has written to the board of the company stating that it is unfair and illegal to single him out for any kind of collective failure.

Regulatory probe

Amid a regulatory probe into alleged interference by its officials to ensure ‘good’ rating to troubled infrastructure financing company IL&FS, the rating agency had first sent Mr. Takkar on compulsory leave in July before terminating his services

in August. “It would be grossly incorrect and unfair, indeed illegal, if I am singled out and solely held responsible for any collective failure,” Mr. Takkar said in the letter filed under Section 169 of the Companies Act, 2013, which entitles him to make a representation to all the shareholders of the company.

He further highlighted that the rating agency, since inception, had institutionalised checks and balances and that all its rating decisions were assigned by rating committees, where each member of the committee had an equal vote, with a right to record dissent and without any veto right.

Pharma exports grew 11% in first quarter

Poised to touch \$22 billion this fiscal, over 14% higher than in FY19: Pharmexcil

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD

Pharma exports bucked the recessionary trend, to clock 11% growth in the first quarter this fiscal and followed it up with a robust, over 21% growth in July.

Coming at a time when “most commodities are not moving in a positive direction, pharma exports are a silver lining,” Ravi Uday Bhaskar, Director General of Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil), said on Friday. If the pace of growth is maintained, exports may close the fiscal at a new high of \$22 billion.

That would be a more than 14% growth compared to the \$19.2 billion achieved in 2018-19, he said during a



Ravi Uday Bhaskar

media interaction here on Friday. The growth in the first four months – exports were around \$6.7 billion – came on the back of better tidings in the key U.S. market, especially driven by stability in prices.

“Of late, the U.S. market has stabilised. The volumes

Spectrum auction by year end or early next year, says Prasad

Largest-ever auction to see 5G debut, sale of 4G spectrum

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

India will launch its much-awaited spectrum auction later this year or early next year, a move that could see government mopping up ₹5.86 lakh crore at base price.

“By the year end or the beginning of next year, we propose to go for auction of spectrum. We have ensured that India’s auction of spectrum will be done in a fair and transparent manner,” Union Minister for Communications, Electronics & Information Technology and Law & Justice, Ravi Shankar Prasad, said here on Friday.

This would be the government’s largest spectrum auction, where over 8,200 MHz of airwaves will be up for



Ravi Shankar Prasad

grabs and the auction will see the debut of fifth generation (5G) spectrum, which is expected to propel the telecom industry towards the next phase of growth, besides the sale of 4G spectrum.

However, the telecom industry is reeling under debt of almost ₹8 lakh crore, with leading operators like Bharti

Airtel and Vodafone Idea having debts of ₹1.16 lakh crore and ₹1 lakh crore, respectively.

Talking about the concerns of the sector, Mr. Prasad said, “My government, my department is looking into the problems of the telecom sector. Many of them... we have already taken up with the government. All policy initiatives have been done, starting from spectrum trading to spectrum sharing. A communications policy is already in place.” Mr. Prasad has already sought emergency relief from Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for the stressed sector, seeking a cut in levies such as licence fees and the goods and services tax (GST).

RBI: minimum capital for SFB is ₹200 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday proposed a minimum equity capital of ₹200 crore to set up a small finance bank (SFB) under the ‘on tap’ licence regime to expand the banking services through high technology, low cost operations.

Releasing the draft guidelines for ‘on tap’ licensing of SFBs in the private sector, the Reserve Bank of India said existing non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), micro finance institutions and local area banks in the private sector, which are controlled by residents, can opt for conversion into small finance banks.

Andhra Bank board okays merger with UBI

Debt instruments under credit watch

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD

The proposed merger of Andhra Bank with Union Bank of India (UBI) on Friday received a crucial approval from the board of directors of the former.

A regulatory filing by the bank said the board of directors “considered and accorded its in-principle approval for the amalgamation of Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank with Union Bank of India as the anchor bank.” The approval of the board, subject to statutory/regulatory approvals, came close on the heels of a protest by a union of Andhra Bank employees against the merger.

As a last-ditch attempt, the employees had demanded that the over nine-decade-old Andhra Bank’s

The board of Corporation Bank will meet on Sept. 16 to consider its amalgamation with Union Bank of India

identity be retained by making it the anchor bank.

The board of Corporation Bank is scheduled to meet on September 16 to consider its amalgamation with Union Bank of India.

Meanwhile, Care Ratings on Friday placed the credit rating of certain debt instruments of both Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank under ‘credit watch with developing implications’.

The rating action is based on the proposed amalgamation, Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank said in separate filings with the exchange.

Veterans’ ‘time out,’ Titan set for new chimes

Within the Tata group, the company is now second largest in market capitalisation, at ₹95,000 crore

MINI TEJASWI BENGALURU

There’s something that makes Tata Group’s Titan tick!

Titan was born when HMT (Hindustan Machine Tools) used to be the time keeper of the nation. Set up in 1986, the firm, so far, has seen only two CEOs – Xerxes Desai, the founding MD who served until 2002 and Bhaskar Bhat who took over the reigns of the company in that year.

Mr. Desai was at the helm for 16 years and Mr. Bhat would have put in more than 17 years with the company and 34 years with the Tata Group, when he retires on September 30.

Tata Group already has a succession plan in place. C.K. Venkataraman, earlier CEO of Titan’s jewellery business, will take over as the third MD of Titan Company in October this year.



Sands of time: Watches are coming back to millennials as a fashion statement, says Bhaskar Bhat. • ASHOKE CHAKRABARTY

The MD-designate comes with 14.5 years of experience in watches and a similar period of exposure to jewellery business within Titan. Mr. Venkataraman has six years left to retire. So, the longevity records set by his predecessors will possibly remain untouched for the foreseeable future.

Titan has been a great va-

lue creator. Since Mr. Bhat took charge as MD in 2002, the company’s shares have grown by some 400 times.

Its current market capitalisation is more than the combined worth of Tata Steel and Tata Motors, at about ₹95,000 crore.

Interestingly, when he took over the reins of watch business, Titan’s market cap-

italisation was about ₹220 crore and today, it is the second-largest listed entity in the Tata stable after TCS in market capitalisation.

When Mr. Bhat took over, Titan’s annual production was six million watches, having now grown to over 18 million. Under his management, the company has also diversified into jewellery, eyewear, accessories, perfumes and sarees, converting Titan into a complete lifestyle accessories brand.

‘Titans’ set to retire

Ravi Kant, CEO, watches and accessories at Titan is retiring and Suparna Mitra, chief sales and marketing officer, will take over as the new CEO from April, 2020.

Ajoy Chawla, senior VP - strategy and business incubation, will take over as CEO-jewellery from October.

Saumen Bhaumik, chief

sales and marketing officer, eyewear will take over as CEO of the division from January 2020 as incumbent Ronnie Talati, is retiring.

“Five out of eight top leaders who have been serving the company right from its inception are retiring. We have enough people internally to fill in these positions.

“Also, we have built a leadership [pipeline] to ready the next generation of leaders,” said Mr. Bhat.

He said he was leaving his company at a time when smart watches were increasingly becoming popular.

“I am so happy to see watches are coming back to the wrists of millennials as style statements, fashion accessories and smart bands. We should have entered the smart watch segment a few years ago; we were late by two years, and that’s the only regret I carry,” he said.

Indian Bank to work on cardless cash withdrawal system

Public sector lender may offer the facility by June 2020

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

Public sector lender Indian Bank will start working on system under which customers can withdraw cash without using a debit card, according to a top official.

Indian Bank would start working on the system, with interoperability facility, soon after the National Payments Corporation of India comes out with a specifications.

“In all probability, it would happen by June 2020,” said S. Rengarajan, general manager (digital banking) Indian Bank. “When we offer this service, it should be interoperable. Customers of any bank can use our system for cash withdrawal and vice versa. Currently, the system is li-



imited only to cash deposits.”

“Right now, two banks are offering this facility,” said M.K. Bhattacharya, executive director, Indian Bank. “State Bank is offering this facility through its Yono website and Bank of India, via QR code for their own ATMs, in a limited manner,” he said.

On Friday, the bank in as-

sociation with Loylty Rewards Mngt Pvt. Ltd., launched a loyalty programme called ‘Ind Advantage,’ wherein Indian Bank customers would earn rewards for using debit card, internet and mobile banking facilities. The rewards can be redeemed for merchandise tickets, recharge coupons etc. on the programme’s website www.inadvantage.com or at stores.

To a question, Mr. Bhattacharya said the new programme, which carried multiple benefits, would be extended to credit card customers too. He also said that the bank was adding one lakh customers to its debit card portfolio every month and it was set to rise by 10% due to the new initiative.

Tata firm launches India’s first maritime broadband

Service for vessels in Indian waters

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

VSAT solutions provider Nelco, a Tata enterprise, on Friday announced the launch of maritime communication services, becoming India’s first company to provide broadband services to the maritime sector.

Ravi Shankar Prasad, Union Minister for Communications, Electronics & Information Technology and Law & Justice, and Anshu Prakash, Secretary, Department of Telecommunications, inaugurated the services here on Friday.

Nelco, through global partnerships and infrastructure, including transponder capacity on the satellite of ISRO and service portfolio, will help energy, cargo and cruise vessels by enhancing operational efficiency.

The in-flight and maritime communications (IFMC) licence has not only enabled connectivity for on-board users on ships but also brings operational efficiencies for shipping companies which were less evolved until now.

P.J. Nath, MD & CEO of NELCO, said, “Nelco is proud to announce the launch of its maritime communication services, enabling any maritime vessel sailing in Indian waters to have high quality, uninterrupted access to broadband Internet. We will also be offering a bouquet of digital services to cater to the needs of various maritime vessels. Going forward, we believe that we will be able to fully meet the communication needs of the maritime industry.”

Biocon signs pact to sell 3 drugs in China

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU

Biopharmaceuticals company Biocon has signed a license and supply agreement with a subsidiary of China Medical System Holdings (CMS) for three different generic formulation products.

Under this 10-year agreement, Biocon would be responsible for the development, manufacturing and supply of the products, while CMS would take care of registration and commercialisation of these products in Greater China, said a Biocon statement.

Arun Chandavarkar, CEO and joint MD, Biocon, said: “This collaboration will allow us to take our U.S.-approved generic formulations to patients in China.”

Performance artist Nikhil Chopra is traversing the Metropolitan Museum of Art, tent and sleeping bag in hand, exploring questions of identity and *Land Water Sky*

Look who’s camping at the Met

GEORGINA MADDOX

This month, performance artist Nikhil Chopra plans to pitch a canvas tent at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. In the 150-year-history of the New York museum, he will probably be the first to do so. The tent will be coloured indigo on the outside, to reflect the sky; inside, he will draw landscapes, while ‘camping’ like a nomadic traveller.

The trope of the itinerant painter has always appealed to Chopra, but this time, when he revives and reprises the role, he will be surrounded by priceless artefacts. “Naturally, it is difficult to negotiate a space like the Met because one has to be aware of the artworks and the aura they inspire. Yet it is an encouragement to create a live intervention and reaction to these prized pieces,” says Chopra, who is the 2019-20 Artist in Residence at the Met. His durational performances have the contemplative act of drawing at their heart.

Chopra, 45, will perform live for nine consecutive days and eight nights, in three different spots in the museum – drawing, singing (accompanied by a sound artist), eating, changing costumes and sleeping. And the overarching theme will be *Land Water Sky*. “While my work will celebrate the natural landscape, it will also quietly ask, whose land, whose water and whose

sky? These questions are becoming very important, especially in the 21st century,” he says, over a scratchy phone line from New York.

Goa to New York
Two years ago, on a December afternoon, Shanay Jhaveri, Assistant Curator at the Met’s Department of Modern and Contemporary Art, and co-curator Limor Tomer (General Manager of Live Arts), had visited Chopra in his Goa studio. After partaking of a lavish lunch – sharing of food (a ‘living’ aspect of art) is an important part of the artist’s practice – they’d discussed the residency. “As soon as Nikhil proposed the idea of a nomadic traveller crossing the various imaginary national frontiers of the galleries of the Met, we knew we were developing something that was ambitious and conceptually challenging,” Jhaveri says.

The space adapts naturally to Chopra’s work that



STEPHANIE BERGER

ranges from live art and theatre, to painting, sculpture, photography and installations. His performances, which dwell on issues like identity, combine everyday life and collective history. “His work is layered and considered. It interfaces with our historical past with great intelligence, but in an ever-accelerating, image-based culture, Nikhil’s practice is deeply grounded in the experience of the body, of the lived experience, in slowness, the long duration, and it is this aspect that

has always captivated me,” shares Jhaveri, who has been working on getting more Indian and South Asian art represented at the Met Breuer.

Mapping the Met
Chopra began his performance this Thursday, climbing up the Met’s steps and making his way to the Egyptian Temple of Dendur in the Sackler Wing. Today, he’ll move to the Modern and Contemporary Art Gallery housing Sol Le Witt’s abstract *Wall Drawing #370* (1982), a series of 10 geometric paintings that will inform his work while

there. He will end in the Robert Lehman Wing’s skylit courtyard, where the ongoing exhibition, *In Praise of Painting: Dutch Masterpieces at The Met*, is housed. “It features names like Rembrandt, Hals and Vermeer,” he says. “Since a lot of my work is painting and drawing based, I think it will be my fitting tribute to the great masters.”

While he creates his large-scale, immersive landscapes, he will use his own body as an artistic medium, adopting a number of personae, changing costumes and applying make-up. Through this, he will interrogate how identities are formed and understood. As he told *The Art Newspaper*, “Somewhere I will look like an abstract painting, somewhere a shaman, and somewhere I might even look like a Chinese lantern, with tassels hanging from of my costume.”

Artist as a young man
In the past, I’ve seen Chopra, covered in charcoal, frantically sketching on a wall, dressed in nothing but a loincloth, his eyes wide and full of an almost animal instinct, as he draws the world outside on the walls of the gallery within. This was in 2010, when he executed a performance, titled *Yog Raj Chitrakar: Memory Drawing X*, with Mumbai’s Chatterjee & Lal. I know the extent to which he can become absorbed by his performance.

(Clockwise from left) Chopra performing *Blackening V* at Mumbai’s Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, on the steps of the Met ahead of *Land Water Sky*, one of the artist’s personae in previous works • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Since his early days at the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda’s Faculty of Fine Arts (where he and I were batch-mates), Chopra’s practice emerged from that of drawing and veered towards theatre. He was part of a theatre group, The Play House, directed by Arun Agnihotri, and even in those formative years, his performances stood out for their intensity and conviction. His ability to transcend the limitations of the stage, to become the character he was portraying, stands him in good stead today as a performance artist.

As a painter, too, he wanted to experiment with live drawing in public spaces from a very early stage in his artistic career. Some of my most vivid memories of him are at the faculty canteen, sketching portraits, being ‘watched’ by a possible ‘audience’.

Balancing personal and political
A large part of Chopra’s performance is spontaneous, and known to last for days and stretch his mental and physical endurance. At the Met, as he admitted to *The Observer*, he thinks of it as going on a trek, with his sleeping bag and food supply. “Climbing the mountain, going over the pass and descending, then the fatigue and the euphoria all play themselves out over these days. While I don’t do any real preparation, other than working on the drawings (in his studio, over the past few months), I’ve gone on a couple of treks since I took on this project, to prepare myself, precisely because of that sense of endurance that is addressed. I have to confront my body and its limitations.”

Bringing autobiographical elements into his work, though, comes more naturally. Land, water and sky have been recurring themes in his work since last year, but their genesis goes back much further. “As a child, I spent many summers in Pahalgam (Kashmir) with my grandparents, in their cottage on the Liddar River. My grandfather was what they call a ‘Sunday painter’, and I grew up around his landscapes and I guess that had an impact on my own practice,” he says, observing that the personal and the political are always entwined. With Pahalgam a political hot-bed right now, it will be interesting to see how Chopra will incorporate it into his performance at the Met.

‘My recipes won’t test the chefs’



Nigella Lawson on curating her first dinner in India, her relationship with social media and why meetings stop her from expanding her empire

AATISH NATH

Nigella Lawson got off a plane just hours earlier and is now sitting cross-legged on the sofa at the Taj Mahal Palace’s Neptune Suite. Dressed in what seems to be her uniform of choice in public – black shirt and trousers with white shoes – you wouldn’t know she’s just arrived in Mumbai. She’s already familiar with the hotel staff, calling her butler by name, and when she notices someone with a hot water bag, she rummages through her suitcase for a pain relief patch.

She’s in India thanks to Evolve Luxury Marketing and American Express, who are

co-presenting The World Series dinners in Mumbai and Delhi. But if you think her dishes will involve ego-propping techniques and unheard of ingredients, you don’t know the ‘domestic goddess’.

She’s only ever cooked for pleasure. “I don’t think any of my recipes [dishes like chicken with bitter orange and fennel, and a rose and pepper pavlova] are going to test the chefs. I haven’t said, ‘Go fancy’ because that wouldn’t be right,” she tells me, her signature twinkle ever-present, before joking that they will better her skills.

“For the canapés, I’m sure they’ll cut them out much



(From left to right) Nigella Lawson; and a pear, pistachio and rose cake • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

better than I would. If they do a square, it will be a square. I always feel like I take liberties with geometry. But you won’t be seeing a foam on anything. I can assure you.”

Sticking to food
Lawson, who is known the world over for her cookbooks (12 and counting) and television shows (over 10, besides outings on *MasterChef Australia*, *The Taste* and even *Modern Family*), has had to adapt as the world has changed – but on her own terms. While she understands the need to be present on various social platforms, she keeps the personal away

from the professional.

Lawson, 59, has become even more private after the very public, and unpleasant, divorce from her second husband, businessman Charles Saatchi, a few years ago. Her Instagram is all about food.

“I’ve always taken pictures of my food, a long time before social media. In fact, I did it in the time when you used to have to take your film to the pharmacy, where they’d develop it and I’d have one or two of my children and the rest of tomatoes or something.”

Earlier this year, she launched her own free app, Foodim (on iOS at the mo-

ment), developed “a bit with my cameraman”. Her first book though, *How To Eat: The Pleasures and Principles of Good Food* (1998), a 500-page tome, had no photos and over 350 recipes.

Meetings? No, thank you
While many chefs, including fellow Britisher Jamie Oliver (who, like Lawson, encourages people to cook), has founded culinary empires, she has not. Meetings, she laughs, are partly to blame. “One of the nice things about what I do is that I don’t have a lot of meetings. Once you start going into the world of anything else, you know, there are meetings. And then you think, ‘why am I having a life with meetings all the time?’ No thanks. In the end, I like writing books, and I like padding about and doing things.”

But she’s not averse to experimenting. “In life, you should have as many different experiences as possible.”

Dinner tomorrow at The Roseate, New Delhi, 8 p.m.; ₹25,000; for details: 9873733770

PRODUCTS

Fratelli for La Piazza



One of Delhi’s oldest Italian restaurants, La Piazza at Hyatt Regency just turned 25. To mark this, the House of Fratelli has developed a commemorative blend of a medium-bodied red, made of Sangiovese and Cabernet Sauvignon. The flavours are subtle and fruity, with hints of plum and blackberry accented with notes of spice and vanilla. The wine, which has been aged in oak barrels, is best paired with pasta, fish, or lamb chops. It has been produced in Akluj, Maharashtra, with just over 1,000 bottles made so far.

Available at La Piazza in Hyatt ₹1,200 ++ by glass, and ₹4,700 ++ by bottle

Contact us at delhimetro@thehindu.co.in

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



MUSIC

Veena recital
Gurukulam Foundation, in collaboration with India International Centre presents, *Nadaamrutam*, a Carnatic music performance, this morning. The event will feature a veena recital by Saraswati Rajagopalan from Delhi, accompanied by N. Padmanaban on the mridangam and N. Kannan on the ghatam.
VENUE: C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, IIC
TIME: 10:30 a.m.



ART

Mithila paintings
The ongoing art show *Likhiya*, showcases Mithila paintings from the Janapada Sampada Archives and the personal collection of artist, Manisha Jha. The exhibition brings together rare artworks by renowned masters of the Mithila paintings tradition such as Sita Devi, Mahasundari Devi, Godavari Dutt and Chano Devi.
VENUE: Twin Art Gallery-II, IGNC, Janpath
TIME: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.



PERFORMANCE

Vocal recital
Under the Banyan Tree on a Full Moon Night is presenting its September edition, this evening. The Gundecha Brothers, leading proponents of the Dhrupad style, will perform alongside classically-trained musicians Bindhumalini and Vedant, merging the rich poetry of Kabir and Tulsidas with musical traditions.
VENUE: 1AQ, Opposite Qutub Minar, Mehrauli
TIME: 7 p.m. onwards



FOOD

New menu
Time Machine, a multi-cuisine restaurant at Noida, has introduced a new menu. The vegetarian menu offers dishes like Hara Bhara Kebab, Paneer Lababdar, Green Thai Curry with Steamed Rice. The non-veg variant has Sweet Chilli Tart, Bhatti Ka Murg Tikka, Fish Finger, Mutton Rogan Josh, and more.
VENUE: Time Machine, Sector 38, Noida
TIME: 12 noon - 4 p.m.



FILM

English documentary
IHC will screen a 30-minute English documentary, *Splendor of Vijayanagara*, this Sunday. Directed by the noted historian, filmmaker and photographer, Benoy K Behl, the film is about the Vijayanagara Empire which emerged in the mid-14th century and soon encompassed most of South India, from coast to coast.
VENUE: Gulmohar Hall, India Habitat Centre
TIME: 7 p.m.

FILM REVIEWS

Witty dialogue, hollow comedy

Ayushmann Khurrana's knack for social satire is marred by a script and aesthetics more suitable for television

KENNITH ROSARIO

Comedies rely heavily on two main pillars – characters and situations. In *Dream Girl*, the former is what drives the film and generates laughter, while the latter meanders, often in a rapid terrain of mediocrity. The novelty of the film lies in the situation (a man imitating a woman's voice at a call centre for 'dirty talk'). It starts off funny, but eventually becomes stale and monotonous. The film's aesthetics – with close-ups, garish colours (piercing pink walls and lips), establishing opening shots, and loud background

tracks – make *Dream Girl* more suitable for television than cinema. As it carries on, the way the characters are built and the narrative shapes up makes me further convinced that this film was fashioned out of an abandoned (if not rejected) television script.

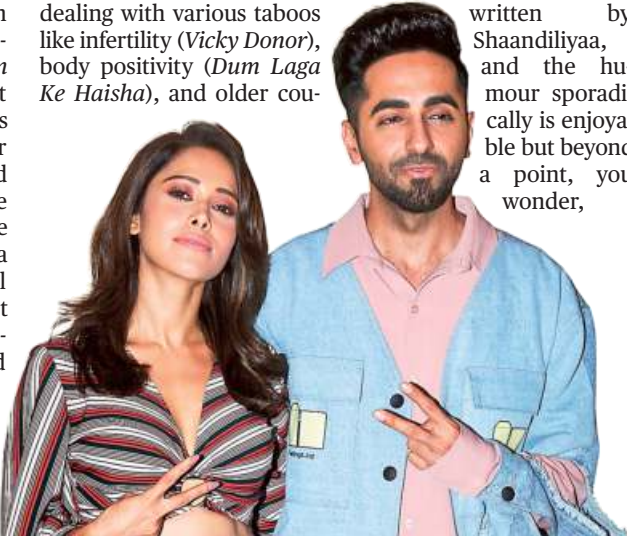
In alignment with Ayushmann Khurrana's repertoire of acting in social satire, dealing with various taboos like infertility (*Vicky Donor*), body positivity (*Dum Lagha Ke Haisha*), and older cou-

ples having a baby (*Badhaai Ho*), Raaj Shaandilyaa's *Dream Girl* attempts to showcase how loneliness is crippling our lives, despite an illusion of solidarity on social media. The film picks silliness and humour over didacticism, and delivers some witty one-liners and descriptors like 'gareebon ke Abhishek Bachchan'. Its strength lies in its dialogue written by Shaandilyaa, and the humour sporadically is enjoyable but beyond a point, you wonder,

'What next?'. After a while, the jokes appear to be cut from the same cloth of insults, a disparaging tone and manufactured confusion.

In this long-winding film, Khurrana's lack of self-consciousness and machismo while imitating a woman, is commendable. Even in drag (as Sita or Radha), Khurrana doesn't elicit cringe. Annu Kapoor, who plays his father, chastises him for making money out of his 'talent' to imitate the voice of a woman, but the film keeps the discourse light-hearted, thankfully. Although Kapoor's repartee with Khurrana isn't as sharp as it was in *Vicky Donor*, their personas individually do generate laughter. Vijay Raaz as a hapless constable in love with Khurrana's voice, Manjot Singh as Smiley, the loafer best friend, and Raj Bhansali as Toto the short Haryanvi

Lighthearted discourse
Khurrana and Bharucha at a promotional event
*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Dream Girl

DIRECTOR: Raaj Shaandilyaa
CAST: Ayushmann Khurrana, Nushrat Bharucha, Annu Kapoor, Manjot Singh, Vijay Raaz, Abhishek Banerjee, Raj Bhansali, Rajesh Sharma, Nidhi Bisht, Neela Mulherkar
STORYLINE: A jobless youth's female impersonation gets him employed at a call centre for 'dirty talk'

brat, stand out. But when it comes to the women, we deserve better humour than Nidhi Bisht's embittered man-hater-turned-lesbian character (who apparently fell for a woman after being jilted by three male lovers), and Nushrat Bharucha, who plays Khurrana's inconsequential fiancé.

The film also cuts to an oversized woman at the call centre a few times, with a mocking soundtrack, in the guise of comedy. It's 2019; surely we can do better than fat shame.



Deeply problematic Akshaye Khanna in a still from *Section 375* *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Myopic, ignorant, and a train wreck

Thriving in grey areas initially, this film ultimately emerges as a deeply disturbing and injudicious one

KENNITH ROSARIO

Section 375 – which references several times to the Nirbhaya case, takes sheepish digs at the MeToo movement ("the court of Twitter") and captures the media pressure (both mainstream and social) surrounding a high-profile rape case – cannot absolve itself of its impact in the society. It validates and legitimizes the views of many, who perhaps would use this film as a reference point to proclaim, "Not all men".

One cannot invalidate the possible real-life existence of a case like the one filmmaker Ajay Bahl presents in the film. But when a narrative – in its tone, and decisions to reveal or hide certain "facts" – picks a side, and ultimately projects a few (very) disturbingly graphic claims of self-harm as true, there's enough reason to hold the film liable. It's hard to dissociate this film from the time in which it releases: a year after the MeToo movement was at its peak in India. Today, we stand at a point where the ones accused are re-emerging into their respective professional lives, or even downright ridiculing the col-

Section 375: Marzi Ya Zabardasti

DIRECTOR: Ajay Bahl
CAST: Akshaye Khanna, Richa Chadda, Rahul Bhat, Meera Chopra
STORY LINE: A High Court trial after a costume designer accuses a filmmaker of rape

lective resistance to sexual misconduct and patriarchal power dynamics. In this, you have *Section 375*, which doesn't simply raise questions and explore the grey zones (which is undoubtedly imperative), but picks a side and ventures onto demonstrating how "law was served but justice was denied".

The tightly written first half doesn't waste screen time and jumps right into the case of Anjali Dangle (Meera Chopra) accusing celebrated filmmaker Rohan Khurana (Rahul Bhat) of rape and assault. The film is largely confined to the trial in the High Court and through the proceedings, the audience is acquainted with various characters with different value systems and morals about sexual abuse. For instance, Rohan's wife (Shriswara) is discussing the

poster for a seemingly feminist project when she is informed of her husband's rape allegations. Through the film she is torn between the various revelations.

The first half also establishes the worldviews of the young passionate lawyer Hiral Mehta (Richa Chadda), the older, more pragmatic lawyer Tarun Saluja (Akshaye Khanna), and the two High Court judges hearing the case (one is "no nonsense" and the other "progressive and liberal").

For the most part, the film creates ambiguity, refrains from being didactic, compels you to think with facts, and resists taking sides. Had it remained in this space, while hinting at provocative possibilities, it could have been a riveting, significant film. But once the film takes a stand, it's nothing short of chilling. Not only does it provide validation to all those dismissing sexual harassment cases as having ulterior motives, but it also does great disservice to the women who've spoken out. It's not hard to ascertain the impact of *Section 375* and the recklessness and shortsightedness with which Bahl has approached the subject.

Here comes the bride

A fun horror-comedy with caustic dialogue, bloodbaths galore, and a whacky plot to boot

DEBORAH CORNELIOUS

There are revenge films, comedy horrors, supernatural ones and thrillers. Rarely does something seamlessly marry all these genres in one succinct package. That's what *Ready or Not* is. With its unassuming name and, let's face it, even cast of actors, it'd be really easy to underestimate a film of this kind. But it would be a real shame to miss something so deliciously different.

The film is about a bizarre ritual followed by the Le Domases, an obscenely wealthy American family who are closet Satanists, and follow a

certain Mr La Bail. Every time someone new enters the clan through matrimony, everyone must partake in a midnight game. Alex (Mark O'Brien) brings home Grace (Samara Weaving), a waif-like young woman who's grown up in foster homes and yearns for the acceptance of the Le Domases. Dressed in pristine white lace, almost like a princess, Grace marries Alex on the Le Domases estate.

Her wedding night then, as tradition goes, turns into a bloody hunting party.

Clocking in at a neat 95 minutes, *Ready or Not* is judiciously edited with nary a

dull moment. Director duo Matt Bettinelli-Olpin and Tyler Gillett forcefully grab your attention from start to finish. The two take Guy Busick and R. Christopher Murphy's eccentric screenplay and heighten its madness to another extreme. The effect is so well-rounded, that even the film's humour is a breath of fresh air, sneaking in sarcasm discreetly enough to tickle you pink. The directors' sleight of hand is most evident in *Ready or Not*'s shifts in genre, from comedy to horror – perfectly congruent and never jarring.

Of course, it's the performances that amplify a great



Extra edge Samara Weaving in the film
*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

story. From junkie Emilie (Melanie Scrofano), a spoiled daddy's girl who gets away with murder by accidentally killing the help more than once, to Becky (Andie MacDowell), the warm but psychotic matriarch.

But it's scream-queen Weaving, who is spectacular throughout, transforming from a demure bride into something unrecognisable by

Ready or Not

DIRECTORS: Matt Bettinelli-Olpin, Tyler Gillett
CAST: Samara Weaving, Adam Brody, Mark O'Brien, Henry Czerny, Andie MacDowell
STORYLINE: Grace's new husband has a strange family whose ritual to welcome new members involves hunting them to death

the end. Last but not least, a special shout-out to the film's gore, without which, *Ready or Not* would be just another clever genre-bending attempt. The copious blood, sweat, and vomit gives this film an extra edge, one that stays with you long after the credits roll. Come with whatever expectations you might have, but know that *Ready or Not* will surpass them all.

POOCH CAFE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



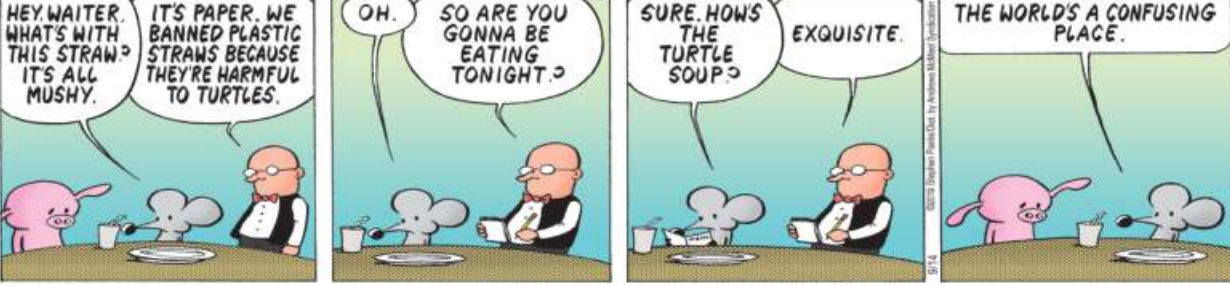
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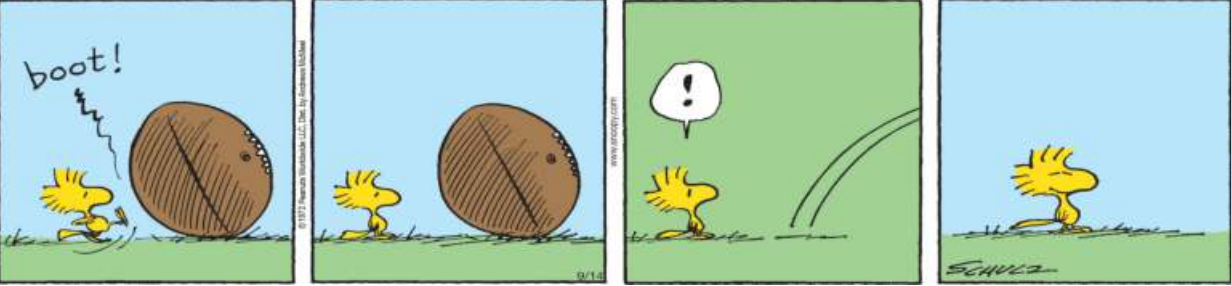
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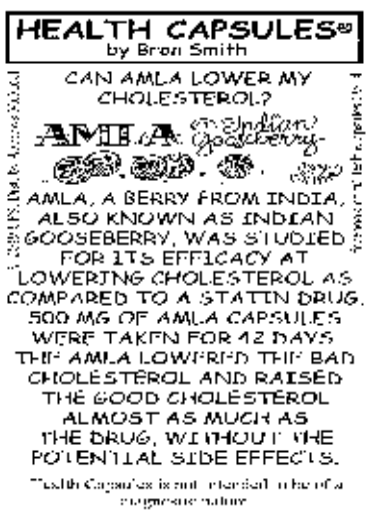
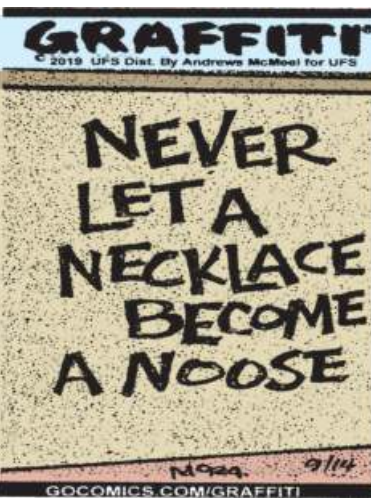
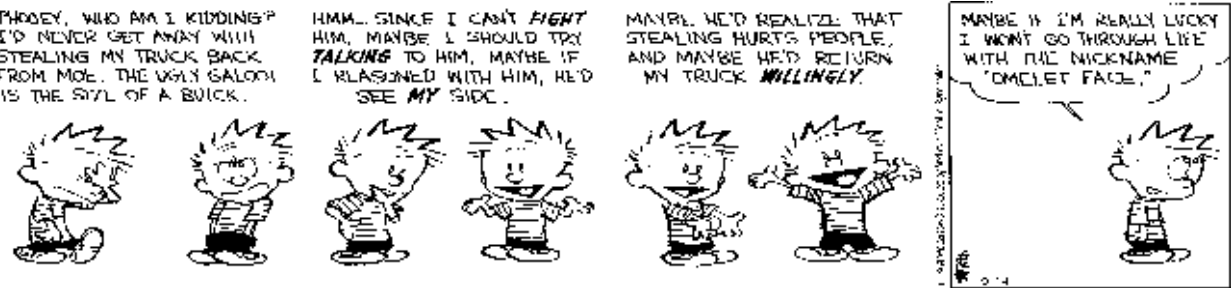
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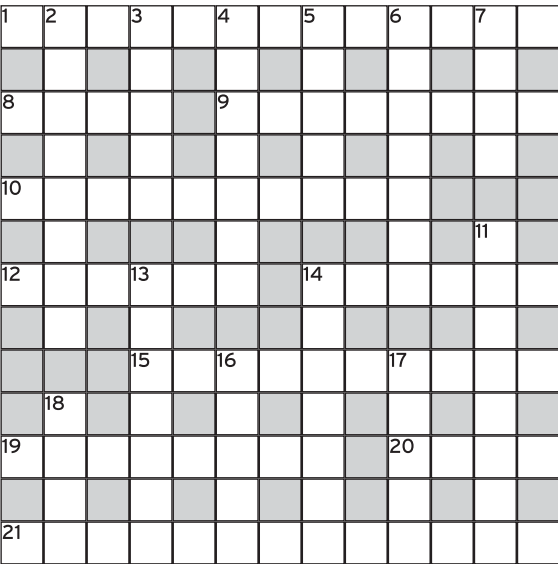
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13174

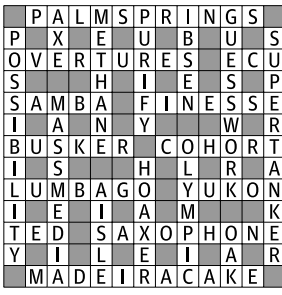


- Across
- 1 Substance aiding the production of suds (5,8)
 - 8 Stopper (4)
 - 9 Loose dressing gowns – paper coverings (8)
 - 10 French school of painting and architecture of the 1880s (3,7)
 - 12 Passage from the mouth to the stomach (6)
 - 14 Celtic language (6)
 - 15 Earlier (10)
 - 19 What may go up when the rain comes down (8)
 - 20 Without feeling (4)
 - 21 Large herbivorous animal native to India, Nepal, Myanmar, Borneo and Sumatra (5,8)
- Down
- 2 Fish-viewing tank (8)
 - 3 Encourage (3,2)
 - 4 Fine particles from cut

- wood (7)
- 5 Snow crystal (5)
- 6 Marry – take on as a cause (7)
- 7 Spanish currency unit (4)
- 11 Aromatic bark used as a spice (8)
- 13 Africa's oldest independent country (7)
- 14 Trash (7)
- 16 Erroneous (5)
- 17 Guess – sit with bad posture (5)
- 18 Christmas (4)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated September 16, 2019.

Solution No. 13173



‘A para-athlete should be known for her achievements, not her disability’

After winning gold at the Para-Badminton World Championships, Manasi Joshi believes ‘anything is possible with sheer hard work’

The equipment is expensive. All para-athletes require financial support to get them. And here I request the authorities concerned to waive off the five per cent GST on prosthetics. Let the equipment be much cheaper and why not India be the leader in producing them and selling them at subsidised rates?

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

She was on her way to work on a busy Mumbai street in December 2011 when tragedy struck. She was hit by a car and had to have her left leg amputated.

What Manasi Joshi did over the next eight years was fight adversity with such remarkable resilience that she became a world champion. Her triumph in the women's singles SL3 category at the Para-Badminton World Championships in Basel preceded P.V. Sindhu's World Championships victory at the same venue by a few hours.

Early start

Although she took to the sport early, Manasi didn't dream of being a world champion. "I [started playing when] I was seven, coached by [Madhav] Li-maye sir and [Vilas] Damle sir. Initially, it was just for fun and fitness. Honestly, my focus was on studies and I never had an ambition to take up badminton as a profession," she says.

She graduated in electronics engineering instead and joined an IT company. It was after the accident that the idea of playing badminton competitively began to form.

Manasi credits Neeraj George, a badminton player and Facebook friend, with putting the thought in her head. "It was so nice of him. Those words of encouragement

strengthened her resolve further. "I went to the Asian Games trials, I was not considered, but, honestly, I was mesmerised by the presence of many with different kinds of disability. For them, the body condition just didn't matter. It was their sheer love for the

[At the Asian Games trials, I was mesmerised by the presence of many with different kinds of disability. For them, the body condition just didn't matter. It was their sheer love for the sport. That was an inspirational sight for me

when you are down mean a lot, and that actually made me think, 'Why not take up a sport?' and that's how I got into para-badminton.

"By god's grace, I could walk within five months and even go to office. When I started playing corporate tournaments and winning titles, people started appreciating me. Of course, the level of the game was not there. But I felt confident that I could play the sport and use it as a part of my rehab programme," Manasi says.

The exposure to para-badminton tournaments, both in India and overseas,

sport. That was an inspirational sight for me," she says.

"Things started looking good once I won silver in a 2014 National-level tournament and was recommended for my first international event in Spain. There again, I saw people with similar problems but playing one sport. That gave me so much positivity. I thought then that I should continue to play badminton with all seriousness."

A chance meeting with chief national coach P. Gopi Chand in 2018 was a game-changer. "I was working in a bank in Ahmedabad, and Gopi sir was the chief guest at the Sports University. My colleagues suggested that I meet him, as they felt it was a once in a lifetime opportunity. When I met him, he was more than happy to welcome me [to his academy in Hyderabad]. That definitely was the turning point of my career.

"My game completely changed at the academy. I improved my strokes and began moving around confidently. And training alongside champion shuttlers like Sindhu and Saina [Nehwal] makes you realise how much effort they have put in to reach that level. That itself is an inspiration. So, it is not just dreaming but working to realise it."

Gopi's presence at Basel helped, too. "Well, he was there for the semifinal and watched the previous rounds... it was the same venue where he had to take care of the big names. It was huge moral support" she says.

What was his message before the final against Parul Parmar, World No. 1, defending champion and one of India's most successful para-athletes? "He said I was playing well and executing whatever was taught. So, he just asked me to be calm, play all the strokes and not worry about the result," Manasi says.

"She [Parul] is a great



PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

player and was not beaten by an Indian at this level before. Thanks to all the inputs from the support staff at the academy, especially coach J. Rajendra Kumar sir and trainer L. Raju, who studied her videos, I won the final. They worked on my strengths and fitness, and kept pushing me."

Challenges remain

The 30-year-old Manasi says her "dreams have started becoming bigger". After the Worlds gold, she is "positive anything is possible with sheer hard work". But the life of a para-athlete remains incredibly challenging.

"I have had to worry about a lot of things, right from my prosthetics fitment to the way my body adapted," she says. "The equipment is expensive [her foot cost Rs. 4.5 lakh]. All para-athletes require financial support to get them. And here I request the authorities concerned to waive off the five per cent

GST on prosthetics. Let the equipment be much cheaper and why not India be the leader in producing them and selling them at subsidised rates?"

Manasi has received financial support from corporates and well-wishers. "Many understood my struggle, including Malcolm and Wel-spun Group, so much so that I don't have to worry now about the cost of training and tournament exposure trips," she says. But she has also had to devise out-of-the-box solutions, such as her campaign on Ketto, an Indian crowd-funding platform. "You will be surprised," she says. "Everyone has a campaign and it has become very popular too."

Has the general perception of para-athletes changed in the time she has played the sport? "Honestly, yes, much before I became the world champion, especially among the younger generation. For instance, no one

looks at me differently," Manasi says.

"A para-athlete should be known for her achievements, not her disability. Your identity has to change. After playing badminton, I have changed a lot, became extremely independent, motivated, managing my time and doing really well in my job [at BPCL]," she says. "I'm grateful to my parents. It is tough to be away from parents and you can imagine my position. But I took it up as a challenge. My parents never questioned my spirit to take on adversity and were very supportive."

The Tokyo dream

Manasi's next big goal is to qualify for the 2020 Paralympics in Tokyo. She is disappointed that her category, SL3 (Standing/lower limb impairment/minor), isn't a part of the event, but she is vying for a mixed-doubles spot, partnering Rakesh Pandey of Haryana. "The qualifica-

tion is very tough," she says. "We have to be in the top six. Right now, we are No. 13. But we have six tournaments to improve our ranking and are hoping to do so."

A Paralympic medal – she also won a mixed doubles silver at the Worlds in 2015 and bronze at the Asian Para Games in 2018 – will add another chapter to an already incredible story. A great fan of Rafael Nadal, Manasi recalls how her visit to the tennis star's hometown, Manacor in Mallorca, Spain, motivated her: "I thought, 'If he has come from here, he really must have worked very hard to make it big.'" Manasi's triumph against the odds is no less inspiring.

WORD PLAY

Kimura

● **What is it?** The 'kimura' or 'kimura lock' is a hold used in mixed martial arts (MMA), with the intention of ending the fight via submission. In essence, a double-joint arm-lock, the technique isolates an opponent's elbow and shoulder joints and applies painful pressure on them.

● **When did it originate?** Variants of the hold have been used in wrestling and judo for years. But the 'kimura' entered the fightsport lexicon on October 23, 1951, when touring Japanese judoka Masahiko Kimura defeated Brazilian jiu-jitsu founder Helio Gracie with the hold.



● **What happened next?** Kimura attained legendary status in Brazil, and his winning hold was incorporated into Brazilian jiu-jitsu. With the influence the Gracie family had in the development of MMA's style, the 'kimura' became one of the sport's most fashionable holds.

● **Why is it popular?** Because it's so versatile – the technique can be locked in from a variety of different positions, including standing, mount, side control, closed guard and open guard. Also, once it's applied expertly, there is no easy escape – it often leads to a 'tap out'.

ON THE BOX



■ **Premier League: SAT:** Liverpool v Newcastle, 4.50 P.M., Norwich v Manchester City, 9.50 P.M.; STAR SPORTS SELECT 1 & HD. Goal Rush (Manchester United v Leicester leads kick-off), 7.20 P.M.; STAR SPORTS SELECT 1, 2 & HD. **SUN:** Bournemouth v Everton, 6.20 P.M.; Watford v Arsenal, 8.50 P.M.; STAR SPORTS SELECT 2HD.

■ **Bundesliga: SAT:** Leipzig v Bayern Munich, 9.45 P.M.; STAR SPORTS SELECT 2 & HD.

■ **Serie A: SAT:** Fiorentina v Juventus, 6.30 P.M.; Napoli v Sampdoria, 9.30 P.M.; SONY TEN 2 & HD. **SUN:** Inter Milan v Udinese, 12.15 A.M.; Genoa v Lazio, 6.30 P.M.; Roma v Sassuolo, 9.30 P.M.; SONY TEN 2 & HD.

■ **Pro Kabaddi League: SAT:** Punjab v Gujarat, 7.15 P.M.; Chennai v Haryana, 8.30 P.M.; STAR SPORTS 1, 2 & HD. **SUN:** Delhi v Gujarat, 7.15 P.M.; Punjab v Patna, 8.30 P.M.; STAR SPORTS 3.



ICC Test Rankings

#	TEAM	M	PTS	RATE
1	India	35	4,027	115
2	New Zealand	26	2,829	109
3	South Africa	27	2,917	108
4	England	36	3,778	105
5	Australia	27	2,640	98
6	Sri Lanka	40	3,795	95
7	Pakistan	27	2,263	84
8	West Indies	32	2,570	80
9	Bangladesh	22	1,438	65
10	Afghanistan	3	165	55

ODI Rankings

#	TEAM	M	PTS	RATE
1	England	54	6,745	125
2	India	58	7,071	122
3	New Zealand	43	4,837	112
4	Australia	50	5,543	111
5	South Africa	47	5,193	110
6	Pakistan	49	4,756	97
7	Bangladesh	46	3,963	86
8	Sri Lanka	54	4,425	82
9	West Indies	49	3,740	76
10	Afghanistan	40	2,359	59

T20I Rankings

#	TEAM	M	PTS	RATE
1	Pakistan	26	7,365	283
2	England	16	4,253	266
3	South Africa	16	4,196	262
4	India	31	8,099	261
5	Australia	21	5,471	261
6	New Zealand	19	4,784	252
7	Afghanistan	16	3,849	241
8	Sri Lanka	21	4,808	229
9	West Indies	24	5,378	224
10	Bangladesh	16	3,525	220



Top Indians ▶

Men's Top Five

#	PLAYER	AGE	POINTS	EVENTS
1	Novak Djokovic	32	9,865	16
2	Rafael Nadal	33	9,225	16
3	Roger Federer	38	7,130	17
4	Daniil Medvedev	23	5,235	25
5	Dominic Thiem	26	4,575	23



Prajnesh Gunneswaran
Rank 85 ▲ 3 spots



Sumit Nagal
Rank 174 ▲ 16 spots

Women's Top Five

#	PLAYER	AGE	POINTS	EVENTS
1	RB Leipzig	3	3	0
2	Bayern Munich	3	2	1
3	Wolfsburg	3	2	1
4	Bayer Leverkusen	3	2	1
5	Borussia Dortmund	3	2	0



Ankita Raina
Rank 192 ▲ 2 spots



Y. Pranjala
Rank 335 ▲ 3 spots



English Premier League Standings

#	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Liverpool	4	4	0	0	12	3	9	12
2	Manchester City	4	3	1	0	14	3	11	10
3	Leicester City	4	2	2	0	6	3	3	8
4	Crystal Palace	4	2	1	1	3	2	1	7
5	Arsenal	4	2	1	1	6	6	0	7
6	Everton	4	2	1	1	4	4	0	7
7	West Ham United	4	2	1	1	6	7	-1	7
8	Manchester United	4	1	2	1	7	4	3	5
9	Tottenham Hotspur	4	1	2	1	7	6	1	5
10	Sheffield United	4	1	2	1	5	5	0	5
11	Chelsea	4	1	2	1	6	9	-3	5
12	Burnley	4	1	1	2	5	6	-1	4
13	Southampton	4	1	1	2	4	6	-2	4
14	Newcastle United	4	1	1	2	3	5	-2	4
15	Bournemouth	4	1	1	2	5	8	-3	4
16	Brighton and Hove Albion	4	1	1	2	4	7	-3	4
17	Wolverhampton Wanderers	4	0	3	1	4	5	-1	3
18	Aston Villa	4	1	0	3	4	6	-2	3
19	Norwich City	4	1	0	3	6	10	-4	3
20	Watford	4	0	1	3	2	8	-6	1

Spanish La Liga Standings

#	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Atletico Madrid	3	3	0	0	5	2	3	9
2	Athletic Bilbao	3	2	1	0	4	1	3	7
3	Sevilla	3	2	1	0	4	1	3	7
4	Levante	3	2	0	1	4	2	2	6
5	Real Madrid	3	1	2	0	6	4	2	5
6	Osasuna	3	1	2	0	3	2	1	5
7	Alaves	3	1	2	0	2	1	1	5
8	Barcelona	3	1	1	1	7	5	2	4
9	Granada	3	1	1	1	7	5	2	4
10	Valencia	3	1	1	1	3	2	1	4
11	Celta Vigo	3	1	1	1	3	4	-1	4
12	Real Valladolid	3	1	1	1	3	4	-1	4
13	Real Sociedad	3	1	1	1	2	3	-1	4
14	Real Mallorca	3	1	0	2	2	4	-2	3
15	Real Betis	3	1	0	2	5	8	-3	3
16	Villarreal	3	0	2	1	7	8	-1	2
17	Getafe	3	0	2	1	2	3	-1	2
18	Eibar	3	0	1	2	3	5	-2	1
19	Espanyol	3	0	1	2	0	5	-5	1
20	Leganes	3	0	0	3	1	4	-3	0

Italian Serie A Standings

#	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Inter Milan	2	2	0	0	6	1	5	6
2	Juventus	2	2	0	0	5	3	2	6
3	Torino	2	2	0	0	5	3	2	6
4	Lazio	2	1	1	0	4	1	3	4
5	Genoa	2	1	1	0	5	4	1	4
6	Bologna	2	1	1	0	2	1	1	4
7	Verona	2	1	1	0	2	1	1	4
8	Sassuolo	2	1	0	1	5	3	2	3
9	Parma	2	1	0	1	3	2	1	3
10	Napoli	2	1	0	1	7	7	0	3
11	Atalanta	2	1	0	1	5	5	0	3
12	Brescia	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	3
13	AC Milan	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	3
14	Udinese	2	1	0	1	2	3	-1	3
15	Roma	2	0	2	0	4	4	0	2
16	Fiorentina	2	0	2	0	4	6	-2	0
17	SPAL	2	0	0	2	2	4	-2	0
18	Cagliari	2	0	0	2	1	3	-2	0
19	Lecce	2	0	0	2	0	5	-5	0
20	Sampdoria	2	0	0	2	1	7	-6	0

German Bundesliga Standings

#	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	RB Leipzig	3	3	0	0	9	2	7	9
2	Bayern Munich	3	2	1	0	11	3	8	7
3	Wolfsburg	3	2	1	0	6	2	4	7
4	Bayer Leverkusen	3	2	1	0	6	3	3	7
5	Borussia Dortmund	3	2	0	1	9	5	4	6
6	SC Freiburg	3	2	0	1	7	3	4	6
7	Eintracht Frankfurt	3	2	0	1	4	3	1	6
8	M'gladbach	3	1	1	1	4	4	0	4
9	Schalke	3	1	1	1	3	3	0	4
10	Hoffenheim	3	1	1	1	3	3	0	4
11	FC Union Berlin	3	1	1	1	4	6	-2	4
12	Fortuna Dusseldorf	3	1	0	2	5	6	-1	3
13	Werder Bremen	3	1	0	2	6	8	-2	3
14	Cologne	3	1	0	2	4	6	-2	3
15	SC Paderborn 07	3	0	1	2	4	7	-3	1
16	FC Augsburg	3	0	1	2	4	9	-5	1
17	Hertha Berlin	3	0	1	2	2	8	-6	1
18	Mainz	3	0	0	3	2	12	-10	0



Attention to detail: Mark Arnall helps Kimi Raikkonen stay hydrated.

TAKE 3: FOOTBALL
THIS WEEKEND

Leicester looks to deepen United's gloom

Undeclared Leicester City travels to Manchester United, winless since the opening weekend, as the Premier League returns after the international break on Saturday.

Brendan Rodgers, whose Foxes currently sit five spots above Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's Red Devils on the table, will be eyeing a second league victory at Old Trafford, having managed Liverpool to a 3-0 win in 2014.

Although United has the better of the head-to-head record, leading Leicester 17-2 overall and 9-1 at Old Trafford, the club isn't in a happy space. And it has injury concerns over full-backs Aaron Wan-Bissaka and Luke Shaw, midfielders Paul Pogba and Jesse Lingard, and forward Anthony Martial.



Barcelona, Real Madrid in unfamiliar terrain

After underwhelming starts to the Liga season, giants Barcelona and Real Madrid find themselves floundering outside the top four.

This weekend, fifth-placed Real welcomes fourth-placed Levante to the Bernabeu in Saturday's early kickoff, before eighth-placed Barcelona closes the day at home against 10th-placed Valencia, which sacked successful manager Marcelino Toral this week.

Real has had injury issues and will also miss Gareth Bale, who is suspended for the game. Star signing Eden Hazard, yet to feature in LaLiga, has started training again after recovering from a niggles and could make the Real squad.

For Barcelona, talisman Lionel Messi is unlikely to return to action while Luis Suarez is coming to the end of his recuperation process. Both are dealing with calf injuries.



Leipzig hosts Bayern in top-of-the-table clash

Niko Kovac's Bayern Munich knows it will need to be at its strongest against RB Leipzig in Saturday's top-of-the-table clash, with Julian Nagelsmann's side having enjoyed its best-ever start, with three wins in three games.

But Bayern will be without midfielder Leon Goretzka, who underwent surgery this week to reduce bruising in his left thigh. The defending champion is second on the table, two points behind Leipzig.

Leipzig's defence is so far the best in the league, having conceded two goals, while its attack has also been potent, thanks to sharpshooter Timo Werner, who has five goals already, one less than in-form Bayern striker Robert Lewandowski.



The fitness formula: how drivers stay in race-shape

There's a lot of work involved in keeping an F1 driver in one piece through a season: managing weight, combating g-forces, balancing muscles, stabilising the spine. Mark Arnall, Kimi Raikkonen's trainer, gives us the low-down

S. DIPAK RAGAV

The physical demands of driving a Formula One car aren't always visible, and so it's often easy to forget that drivers are athletes. To get an insight into how they train and stay race-fit, The Hindu caught up with Kimi Raikkonen's personal trainer, Mark Arnall, in Monza. Arnall previously worked with another Finnish world champion, Mika Hakkinen, and has spent more than two decades in the sport. Excerpts

What goes into making an F1 driver fit?

■ It has changed. In the refuelling era, every lap was a lot quicker, it was like a qualifying lap every lap of the race. The cars are 5-6 seconds slower at the start now, on full tanks. So Kimi's description is that he is just driving around. It is not that demanding physically.

Because of the weight limits [for car and driver], weight management has become a bigger part of training, which for me is boring and frustrating. I prefer to put more muscles on drivers.

In terms of stuff we do, there is the cardio side, [training for] how long they will be driving. We focus on a

lot of functional work, trying to include the whole body, as opposed to isolating one muscle.

We work a lot on the opposing side of the body. While driving, everything is an internal rotation of arms, which are quite specific movements. So, if you then go and train those same muscles in the gym, you overload one side and create an imbalance, which leads to injury. We train to compensate and bring the balance back. That's where functional work comes in.

The core work is super important in that it merges with the functional work. The g-forces are not just on the head but the whole body, the internal organs as

well. So we do a lot of stability work around the hip and spine. The biggest thing we do is keep the driver in one piece from the beginning of the season to the end.

Are F1 drivers some of the fittest athletes in world sport?

■ I wouldn't say F1 athletes are the fittest. Every sport is different. One hundred per cent of the drivers have to be fit to be able to do what they want to do. They are up there with the top athletes. But the demands are different for each sport. It is different from a sprinter to a tri-athlete. So, it is difficult to compare like-for-like across sports unless you try to see on pure VO2 max levels [the maximum amount of oxygen a person can utilise during intense exercise].

Do new drivers struggle when they enter F1?

■ It depends on where they come from and the training they have had. In the refuelling era, say they come

from feeder series like F2 or F3, their experience will be harder. Talking to some of the F2 drivers here, they find it easier to control the car. Maybe the neck struggles a bit more, but yeah, I think the body adapts as they come up through different series. [Then] you go through the normal training to become an F1 driver and when you start driving the F1 car, the body will adapt.

How do you structure the training?

■ The first three months [January-March] are the most intensive. The bulk of the training is done there, as the aim is specific – whether to get the weight to where the engineers prefer the weight to be, to strengthen the neck up, to make some gains cardio-wise or strength-wise. This is the time when we can train enough to make a gain.

As soon as the season starts, the idea is to maintain the training until the end of the season. As the season goes on, it's recovery we fo-

cus more on. Because of the travel and training, if we do too much, the driver gets sick.

So, what do you do between races?

■ Depends. If it is back-to-back, we don't do much, just recovery. Otherwise, easy stuff. Functional and cardio work, but it is based on recovery.

How has Kimi's training evolved? He is the oldest on the grid and will turn 40 next month.

■ Kimi has not changed much. I was reading about Roger Federer and his training method, and how he focused on the technical part because he couldn't compete with the younger guys physically and on the power side. It is something similar, trying to keep the driver in one piece. It has helped that it is less physical than before. So, there is just more emphasis on functional training.

If I look at Kimi's weight beforehand, when we could put muscle on, there was just more muscle holding things together. When you strip those muscles to reduce weight, there is just less stuff holding all the joints together and then it creates instability in between the joints. So you have to work hard to stabilise that.

How does fitness affect performance?

■ There are lots of elements.

On a pure fitness level, if they are not fit enough to drive the car, they are not going to perform well. Hydration and nutrition play a role in that.

I don't think there is any issue from start to finish, according to Kimi, because you start with a full tank of fuel. I have not heard any trainer say their drivers struggle to finish a race. So, the nature of F1 being what it is, and the way drivers train, I would be surprised if they struggle. Maybe 20 years ago, it might have been the case when cars were difficult to drive with gear shifts and power steering not being great.

You have trained Kimi since 2002. What has it been like to have such a long working relationship?

■ It is easy, that's why we are still together. He works exceptionally hard. He knows what he needs from his life. I know what I need from my life. So, we have a good balance. I know his body inside out. So, it is easy to work with someone you know for a long time.

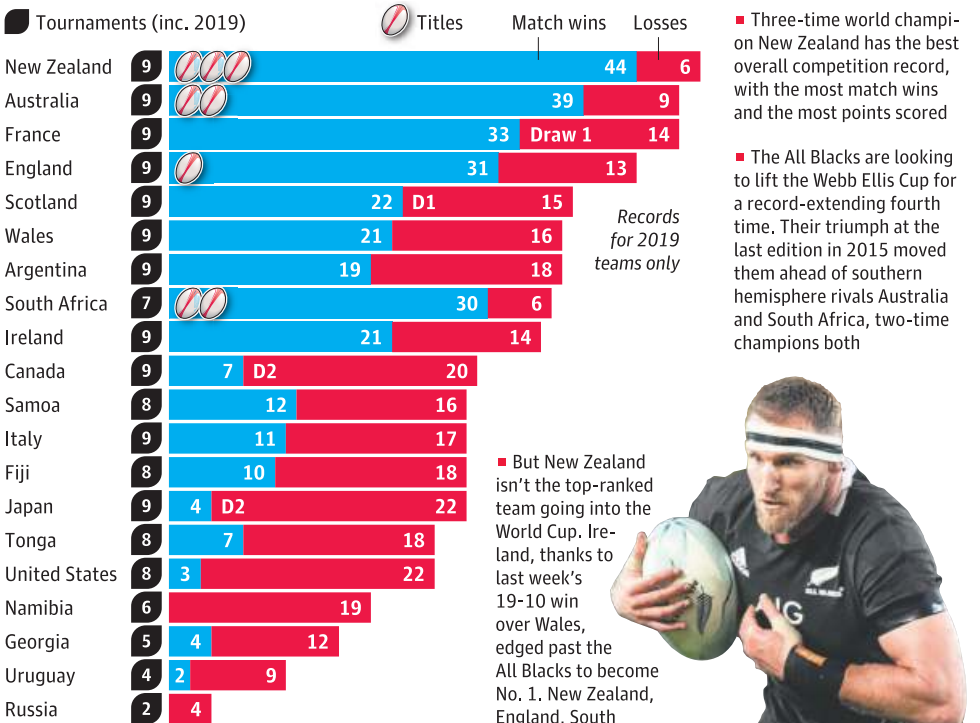
I can't ever remember having an argument with him. He is always honest. With him you know where you stand. If he is not happy, he is going to tell you. What you see is what you get with him. I prefer to work with someone like that.

(The writer was in Monza recently at the invitation of PETRONAS)

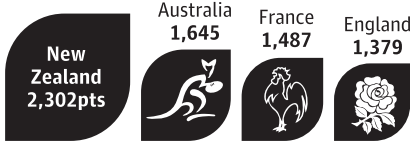
GAME THEORY

A quick guide to the Rugby World Cup

The Rugby World Cup starts next week in Japan, with the host opening the 2019 edition against Russia in Tokyo on Friday. A total of 48 matches will be played at 12 venues over six weeks, with the final taking place at Nissan Stadium in Yokohama on November 2. Here's a look at how the 20 competing teams stack up:



TOP SCORERS
New Zealand has the most World Cup points – racking up over 300 tries



SOURCE: GRAPHIC NEWS



PICTURE THIS



Surfing's Olympic rehearsal

It's a big year for surfing, as the sport gets ready to make its Olympic debut in Tokyo next year. All the best surfers have an eye on the big one, and qualification started earlier this year with the Pan American

Games. The World Surfing Games, currently being held in Kizakihama beach in Miyazaki, is an especially important qualifying event as it is in the Games' host country.

The event offers a total of eight Olympic spots to athletes from Asia, Europe, Africa and Oceania. The 2020 edition will offer a further 10.

The women's competition concluded this week with an unbelievably tight final. Peru's Sofia Mulanovich, 36, won the second world title of her career – and it came an incredible 15 years after her first. Mulanovich overcame stiff competition from Silvana Lima, Bianca Buitendag and Carissa Moore,

to remain the only female surfing champion from South America.

The four women's Olympic spots from this event have provisionally been allotted to Buitendag (South Africa), Shino Matsuda (Japan), Ella Williams (New Zealand) and Anat Lelior (Israel), while the men's competition continues.

Qatar result has changed everything for us, says Chhetri

Gurpreet Sandhu, who led from the front, thrilled with keeping a clean sheet for the national team this year

TALKING FOOTBALL

SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA & N. SUDARSHAN
BENGALURU

Sunil Chhetri watched on from his hotel room in Doha as his teammates battled Qatar at the Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium. He was not, he admitted, the calmest of supporters.

With every save, every blocked Qatari shot, every Indian counter-attack, and every additional second on the clock, his nerves were fraying. When the final whistle went, he simply erupted.

“I was screaming. I lost my voice. The hotel people came up to ask what happened. I said, ‘Get lost.’ I didn’t know what I was saying. I didn’t know what I was doing. I was just so happy and proud to be a part of that team. Somebody asked me who played well, and I took 14 names. They were all so good,” he said as Bengaluru FC began training for the new season here on Friday.



Just reward: Stand-in skipper Gurpreet Sandhu says the draw against Qatar was apt for the effort his teammates put in for 90-95 minutes. • K. MURALI KUMAR

Laid low by a virus, Chhetri sat out India’s gallant draw with Qatar in the 2022

FIFA World Cup qualifiers earlier this week. The result may have earned the side on

ly a single point, but it was worth a whole lot more to Indian football, he felt.



Charged up: Sunil Chhetri said he could not control his emotions as he watched India tackle Qatar. • K. MURALI KUMAR

“We’ve got only one point to show. But it has changed everything for us. Now when

we return to the camp, we’re a different team. When you know that is how much you

are capable of...it just gives you so much confidence.”

Nice feeling

“After the 80th minute, they were desperate and we had three or four counter-attacks. If the game had gone on for 10 more minutes, trust me, we would have scored. I saw Xavi (former Spain and Barcelona midfield legend and current Al Sadd coach) biting his fingernails. And I was thinking, ‘Wow, this is really nice.’”

Chhetri had stayed away from sugar for a long time but that evening, he just let go. “I had two big pieces of cake, some *kheer*,” he says. “I just devoured everything.”

The man central to this result was goalkeeper Gurpreet Sandhu, who took over captaincy duties from Chhetri and led by example with a string of high-class saves to deny Qatar.

Take responsibility

“What I have learnt in Chhetri in these years is that he is

the kind of guy who will do his job perfectly and by seeing him perform others would try and replicate it,” Gurpreet said.

“That is what I try to do whenever I get the responsibility. I had to do my job well first. It won’t help the other players if a senior player is not performing up to the mark.”

Personally, the performance brought great relief and was deeply satisfying, Gurpreet said. “I wanted to get a clean sheet. It had been a while and this was my first clean sheet with the national team this year. So very happy about that.”

“But it wasn’t just me on the pitch. There were ten other people who gave their hearts out. I watched the game again twice over. I could see the amount of effort every single player put. To get rewarded like that was very very satisfying. My teammates deserved it for the kind of effort they put for 90-95 minutes.”

India, SA in quest for the ‘perfect’ team

SA IN INDIA

RAKESH RAO
DHARAMSHALA

With just around 13 months to go for the World T20 in Australia, many strong contenders have begun their quest for getting their squads right.

India is already in preparatory mode after testing out a few new names in the West Indies. An almost unchanged squad takes on South Africa in the three-match series beginning here on Sunday.

Rookie attack

At home, India has never experimented with inexperienced like the one seen in the present bunch of specialist bowlers. Leggie Rahul Chahar, cousin Deepak and Navdeep Saini have played a total of six matches.

Left-arm pacer Khaleel Ahmed, who is yet to firm up his place among the T20 regulars, has figured in 11.

The venues of the first two matches – here and Mohali – should help the faster bowlers get into the groove before travelling to Bengaluru.

Though heavy rain late on Thursday night should leave some moisture under the covers, a 7 p.m.-start considerably brings down the advantage offered by the conditions at this hilly destination.

Moreover, the surfaces to



Bracing up: The South Africans practise at an overcast HPCA Stadium, ahead of the first T20I on Sunday. • AKHILESH KUMAR

be used in this series are not likely to offer the Indian bowlers the kind of assistance that the ones in the West Indies did.

Given a longer run and backed by performances, at least a couple of these bowlers could be in the reckoning when the selectors meet to choose the squad for the T20 World Cup.

Like Rahul Chahar, all-rounder spin-options Washington Sundar and Krunal Pandya are also the beneficiaries of the selectors’ rotation policy.

What gives the selectors, captain and coach the confidence to try out such a combination is the fact that

South Africa, too, is in rebuilding mode.

Apart from speedster Kagiso Rabada and chinaman bowler Tabraiz Shamsi, the other specialist bowlers in the squad are those trying to establish themselves in the game’s shortest format.

Left-arm fast-medium Beuran Hendricks (10 matches) and medium-pacer Junior Dala (9) are accompanied by left-arm spinner Bjorn Fortuin and fast bowler Anrich Nortje, who are looking to make their T20I debut.

Nortje, regarded as one among the best from South Africa, missed this year’s World Cup owing to a thumb

injury.

But what brings balance to the South African bowling, despite this apparently inexperienced set of specialists, is the presence of bowling allrounders Dwaine Pretorius and Andile Phehlukwayo, both part of South Africa’s forgettable World Cup campaign in England.

The duo, along with Rabada and Shamsi, gives wicket-keeper-captain Quinton de Kock quite a few options.

Meanwhile, the South African squad had a three-hour practice session at the HPCA ground. The Indian side arrived in the city in the evening.

Teenager Afif delivers for Bangladesh

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DHAKA

Youngster Afif Hossain struck 52 off 26 balls as Bangladesh survived a scare to beat Zimbabwe by three wickets in the opening match of the tri-nation Twenty20 international tournament on Friday.

Afif, batting at number eight, hit eight fours and a six in his maiden international fifty that guided Bangladesh to 148 for seven in 17.4 overs after the host had restricted the visitor to 144 for five in the rain-hit 18-ov-

ers-per-side match.

The 19-year-old’s performance overshadowed an excellent effort by Ryan Burl who hit an unbeaten 57 (32b, 5x4, 4x6) to help Zimbabwe recover from 63 for five to post a competitive score. Zimbabwe plays Afghanistan on Saturday.

The scores:

Zimbabwe 144 for five in 18 overs (Hamilton Masakadza 34, Ryan Burl 57, Tinotenda Mtshobane 27 n.o.) lost to Bangladesh 148 for seven in 17.4 overs (Mosaddek Hossain 30 n.o., Afif Hossain 52).

PKL Standings

Team	P	W	L	D	Pts
Dabang Delhi	14	11	2	1	59
Bengal Warriors	16	9	4	3	58
Haryana Steelers	14	9	4	1	49
Bengaluru Bulls	16	9	7	0	49
U Mumba	15	7	7	1	43
Jaipur Pink Panthers	15	7	7	1	42
UP Yodhya	14	7	5	2	42
Gujarat Fortunegiants	14	5	8	1	34
Patna Pirates	15	5	10	0	30
Telugu Titans	14	4	8	2	30
Puneri Paltan	14	4	8	2	29
Tamil Thalaivas	15	3	10	2	27

‘Many factors count for white-ball rest’

Bumrah looks forward to the new experience of playing Test matches at home

G. VISWANATH
MUMBAI

India has been shrewd to keep fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah away from the thick of action in white-ball cricket in recent times and thus make him raring to go for the traditional Test cricket.

With the ICC’s World Test Championship having got off the ground immediately after the World Cup in England, captain Virat Kohli, coach Ravi Shastri and the five selectors believe that the speed merchant with a unique action needs to be preserved for the tough multi-day campaigns and have rested the 25-year-old for white-ball cricket.

Bumrah did not figure in the T20I and ODI series in the West Indies that India won hands down and the lithe pacer has also not been chosen for the T20I home series against South Africa.

Measured answers

After joining Seagram’s Royal Stag dream team as brand ambassador, Bumrah answered in a measured tone when asked about him being kept away from white-ball cricket.

“A lot of thought-process goes behind this. It’s not that

I will just rest from white-ball cricket; a lot of preparation goes on during this time. You cannot keep playing all three formats.

“You need to be fresh as well. So when you come back after a break, you are hungry; you want to do well

again and all of that plays a massive role for you to be fit and fresh. So all of that is taken into consideration and then the decision is taken to rest.”

Bumrah has not played a T20I after a match against Australia in Chennai last Fe-



Revelation: Bumrah’s astonishing success in Test cricket means his workload has to be managed judiciously. • AFP

bruary and has not played an ODI after the World Cup semifinal against New Zealand.

In these two formats also Bumrah has been very impressive, taking 51 wickets at 20.18 and 103 at 21.88.

First Test at home

After what has been a splendid demonstration of speed and skill in 12 overseas Tests, Bumrah is all set to play his first Test in India against South Africa at Visakhapatnam from Oct. 2.

Aware of the excitement around his debut-Test appearance in India, Bumrah said: “I have played all my cricket in India before playing for the country; so these are not alien conditions to me.

“But playing Test matches will be a different experience and I am looking forward to it. The preparations have already started.

“And as soon as I join (the team) we will discuss with the team management and the senior players who have played a lot of cricket over here as to what works and what doesn’t. So I will take everything into consideration and let’s see how it goes.”

Archer’s six-for gives England the advantage

Prolific Smith conjures up another masterclass

THE ASHES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Jofra Archer took six for 62 as England bowled Australia out for 225 to gain the upper hand on the second day of the fifth Ashes Test on Friday despite another Steve Smith masterclass.

Joe Root’s team is desperate to level the series at 2-2 to end its historic World Cup-winning season on a high but have been consistently dogged by the peerless Smith.

The former Australian skipper has now amassed 751 runs in just six innings – more than double the tally of the next highest runscorer on either side.

But he was forced to settle for his lowest score of the series – 80 – when Chris Woakes trapped him leg-before in the evening session, leaving the sun-drenched Oval crowd dumbfounded.

Despite a late flurry of runs, Australia had to settle for a first-innings deficit of 69.

Smith came to the crease with Australia in trouble at 14 for two in reply to England’s first-innings total of 294 after Archer had removed openers David Warner and Marcus Harris.

Smith, who was watchful at the start of his innings, brought up his 10th consecu-

tive Ashes fifty with a six over midwicket off left-arm spinner Jack Leach.

Warner’s woes continue Earlier, Warner was dismissed for five by Archer, his eighth score of less than 10 in the series. Archer then struck again with a 90-miles-per-hour thunderbolt, with Ben Stokes holding onto a sharp chance from Harris at second slip.

Smith and Marcus Labuschagne repaired the damage, putting on 69 before Archer struck again, trapping Labuschagne lbw for 48.

Matthew Wade was lbw to

Sam Curran for 19 as Australia slipped to 118 for four but the unruined Smith eased to his half-century off 91 balls.

Wickets tumbled after tea, with Archer removing Mitchell Marsh and Curran dismissing Tim Paine and Pat Cummins in successive balls.

Smith’s dismissal left Australia 187 for eight but Peter Siddie and Nathan Lyon played enterprisingly to add 37 for the ninth wicket.

At the start of the day England added just 23 runs to its overnight score, with Jos Buttler out for 70. Marsh took five wickets on his return to the Test side while Pat Cummins took three.



Fast and furious: The fiery Jofra Archer helped England take the bragging rights in the first innings. • REUTERS

Nihal crushes Safarli

Hari Krishna overcomes Fedoseev

CHESS WC

SPORTS BUREAU
KHANTY MANSIYSK

Teen sensation Nihal Sarin continued his dream run crushing Azerbaijan’s Eltaj Safarli in 37 moves, while P. Hari Krishna ended Vladimir Fedoseev’s resistance in 54 moves in the first game of the second round of the World Cup chess championship here on Friday.

On a day when all five Indians played white, B. Adhiban held formidable Chinese Yu Yangyi to a 55-move draw. Vidit Gujrathi forced a similar result against lower-rated Russian Aleksandr Rakhmonov in 31 moves.

However, Aravindh Chithambaram lost to Russia’s Evgeny Tomashevsky in 37 moves. Nihal, 15, seized

his opportunities in the Ruy Lopez game. The Azerbaijani, who battled hard and long to reach the second round, looked jaded and a sharp Nihal made him pay.

Following his planned assault on black’s castled king, Nihal unleashed a precise knight-sacrifice and broke open Safarli’s defence.

With the black queen and rook-pair far from the on-the-run king, Nihal’s rook and queen were poised to land the knockout punch. At this stage, Safarli gave up.

The results (involving Indians): Round two game one: P. Hari Krishna bt Vladimir Fedoseev (Rus); Nihal Sarin bt Eltaj Safarli (Aze); Vidit Gujrathi drew with Aleksandr Rakhmanov (Rus); B. Adhiban drew with Yu Yangyi (Chn); Aravindh Chithambaram lost to Evgeny Tomashevsky (Rus).



Staying on course: P. Hari Krishna had the measure of Vladimir Fedoseev. • PHOTO: FIDE.COM

TV PICKS

U19 Asia Cup: Final, India v Bangladesh, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 9 a.m.
The Ashes: Fifth Test, Sony Six (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m.
KLM Open golf: DSport, 4.30 p.m.
World wrestling championship: Sony Ten 3 (SD & HD), 5.30 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.

It's Dilip vs. Nagaraj

RAIPUR Third seed Dilip Singh Nongmaithem beat top seed Puneet Kumar Gupta 6-2, 2-6, 6-1 in the semifinals of the over-55 section in the ITF grade-4 seniors tennis tournament at the VIP's Club on Friday.
In the final, Dilip Singh will play Nagaraj Revanasiddaiah who got a walkover from fourth seed Sharad Tak.
The results: **Over-35 (semifinals):** Sachin Patil bt Ravindranath Pandey 6-3, 6-0; Pradeep Pant bt Indrakumar Khangembam Singh 6-0, 3-0 (retired). **Doubles (final):** Avinash Kunwar & Pradeep Pant bt Deepak Marwaha & Sachin Patil 6-2, 6-3.
Over-45 (semifinals): Nitten Kirrtane bt Tuleswor Singh Thongbam 6-1, 6-3; Nelson Jatin Kumar bt Vijay Kumar 6-0, 6-4. **Doubles (final):** Nitten Kirrtane and Vijay Kumar bt Nelson Jatin Kumar & Yogesh Kohli 6-1, 6-1.
Over-55 (semifinals): Dilip Singh Nongmaithem bt Puneet Kumar Gupta 6-2, 2-6, 6-1; Nagaraj Revanasiddaiah w.o. Sharad Tak. **Doubles (final):** Chandra Bhushan & Nagaraj Revanasiddaiah bt Puneet Kumar Gupta & Mani Mohan Nehru 6-3, 6-1.

Abhishek wins

GURUGRAM Second seed Abhishek Gaur beat Sushant Dabas 6-2, 6-3 to win the ₹100,000 AITA men's ranking tennis tournament organised by Pradhan Tennis Academy on Friday.
The results (final): Abhishek Gaur bt Sushant Dabas 6-2, 6-3; **Semifinals:** Sushant Dabas bt Neeraj Yashpaul 3-6, 7-5, 6-4; Abhishek Gaur bt Rahul Singh 6-0, 6-2.

K.V. Command wins Kolkata leg

KOLKATA: K.V. Command Hospital School rode on raider Abhinandan Mondal's seven points to edge out Birla High School 22-21 in the final and emerge as the champion in the Kolkata leg of the KBD Juniors Season 3 kabaddi tournament here.
Earlier, KV Command beat Shree Jain Vidyalaya 26-10, while Birla High defeated Delhi Public School Mega City 30-18 in the semifinals of the event, which runs parallel to the Pro Kabaddi League.
"KBD Juniors is a great platform for these kids to show their skills and aspire to take up the sport at professional level. All the participating schools played really well and I wish them all the best," said Bengal Warriors captain Maninder Singh.
Pailan World School, Army Public School, South City International School and M.C. Kejriwal Vidya-peeth also participated in the tournament.

RACING
Freedom Fire obliges in feature event

HYDERABAD: M/s. Chitturi Krishna Kannaiah & Thimmaraja Yelamarthi's Freedom Fire (Afroz Khan up) won the first division of the Hyderabad Veterinary College Cup, the main event of the races held here on Friday (Sept. 13). Satyanarayana trains the winner. Jockey Akshay Kumar had a fine afternoon as he rode to victory in four races.
1 **FOREST KING PLATE** (1,600m), 3-y-o & over rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): **BRAVE WARRIOR** (Akshay Kumar) 1, Sporting Simile (Nakhat Singh) 2, Jo Malone (Abhay Singh) 3 and Magnetosphere (Afroz Khan) 4. 1-1/2, shd and 6-1/2. Im, 39.47s. ₹23 (w), 7 and 5 (p). SHP: 15, FP: 44, Q: 13, Tla: 114. Favourite: Sporting Smile. Owner: Dr. G. Lakshmi Prasad. Trainer: S. Sreekant.
2 **DECCAN PRINCE PLATE** (1,400m), maiden 3-y-o only (Cat. II), (Terms): **PREMIER ACTION** (Akshay Kumar) 1, Born Greek (Suraj Narredu) 2, Silver Set (Afroz Khan) 3 and Red River (B.R. Kumar) 4. Not run: That's My King. 1, 4-1/4 and 3/4. Im,

Gasol rises to the occasion for Spain

Veteran Scola at his best as Argentina brushes aside France in the other semifinal

BASKETBALL WC

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE BEIJING
NBA champion Marc Gasol saved Spain on Friday as it beat Australia 95-88 after a thrilling second overtime period in its semifinal and will play Argentina in the basketball World Cup final.
An enthralling match between Australia and Spain was 71-71 at the end of regulation time and the two sides could not be separated at the end of a nervy first overtime.
Finally, the 2006 champion Spain prevailed to reach Sunday's final after the Boomers appeared to run out of juice.
Sergio Llull hit two three-pointers in the second overtime for Spain to cap its comeback, having trailed for long periods during regulation time.
Gasol, the Toronto Raptors centre, finished with 33 points, six rebounds and four assists after stepping up when his country needed him most.
Argentina is one win away

from its first title since 1950 after it brushed aside France 80-66 in the other semifinal.
Argentina opened the game up with a 10-2 run that saw Luis Scola, the age-defying 39-year-old, dominate the court. The South Americans led 39-32 at half-time and were never in serious danger of surrendering their advantage after that.
Scola, the grand old man of basketball, finished with 28 points, 13 rebounds and two assists. He was given a huge ovation when he stepped off the court near the end.
With an average height of 6'8" (203 cm), France has one of the tallest rosters at the 32-team World Cup. But it had little effect on Argentina, which was up 52-38 midway through the third quarter and on the way to a big win.
The results (semifinals): Spain 95 (Gasol 33, Rubio 19, Lull 17) bt Australia 88 (Mills 34, Kay 16, Bogut 12).
Argentina 80 (Scola 28, Deck 13, Campazzo 12) bt France 66 (Fournier 16, Ntilikina 16, de Colo 11).



Striding tall: NBA champion Marc Gasol, second from right, turned it on for Spain in its overtime-win over Australia. ■AFP

Abhijit Chadha trails leader Hie by one shot

The day's best bogey-free card of 64 comes from Nicholas Latimer

CLASSIC GOLF

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GURUGRAM
A birdie-birdie finish saw overnight leader Rory Hie wrest back his lead from Abhijit Chadha in the second round of \$300,000 Classic Golf and Country Club International Championship here on Friday.
The Indonesian carded four-under 68 for an aggregate of 12-under 132 to lead by one stroke over Chadha who followed his first-round 68 with an improved 65.

The day's best bogey-free card of 64 came from Nicholas Latimer and saw the American jump to the tied sixth spot at nine-under.
Chadha, who teed off in the morning, led the field for the better part of the day at 11-under. Rory Hie, who started from the 10th hole in the afternoon, owed the one-stroke cushion to his strong finish.
With the course not posing too many challenges, notwithstanding the humid condition, low scores continued. As a result, the 'cut' came at one-under 71 and



Abhijit Chadha.
left 75 players, including 37 Indians, in the fray over the weekend.
Before Rory's late charge,

Chadha's 65 proved the talking point of the day.
"I putted really well today and put myself in good positions. Wherever I was, I took the advantage and played well overall," said the 28-year-old. "I am really happy to be in this position. For the next two rounds, I want to go as low as possible. I have won (three times) earlier on this course so I'm not intimidated at all."
Aman Raj, trailing Chadha by one stroke, again shot a 67 while Rashid Khan (68, 66) joined him by carding a second successive bogey-free

round.
The scores (second round): **132:** Rory Hie (Ina) (64, 68); **133:** Abhijit Chadha (68, 65); **134:** Aman Raj (67, 67), Kosuke Hamamoto (Tha) (69, 65); Rashid Khan (68, 66); **135:** Yongcharoenchai (Tha) (66, 69), Nicholas Latimer (USA) (71, 64), Byungjun Kim (Kor) (69, 66) and Aadil Bedi (67, 68).
Other prominent Indians: **137:** Ankur Chadha (69, 68), S. Chikkarangappa (70, 67), Abhinav Lohan (69, 68); **138:** Veer Ahlawat (71, 67), Karandeep Kochhar (72, 66); **139:** Yashas Chandra (69, 70), Kshitij Naveed Kaul (69, 70), Himmat Rai (68, 71) and Khalin Joshi (73, 66).

Double delight for Raghul

Jumps to second on the leaderboard

MOTORSPORTS

SPORTS REPORTER CHENNAI
Defending champion Raghul Rangasamy, hailing from the nearby temple town of Mamallapuram, pulled off a grand double to put himself in contention for the title in the premier MRF F1600 category on the opening day of the fifth and final round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Car Racing Championship at the MMRT here on Sunday.
Raghul, 26, shrugged off an otherwise inconsistent season so far, and won two of the three races today that were carried over from the rain-affected round four, besides finishing second behind Bengaluru's Yash Aradhya in the other outing to pick up 68 points.
Raghul jumped five spots to move from seventh to second on the leaderboard. He lies just seven points behind championship leader 18-year old Sohil Shah from Bengaluru who drew a blank in race-3 due to a drive-shaft problem after finishing second and third in the other two races.

Finely poised
With four races of the final round to be run over the next two days and a maximum of 100 points to be

won, the championship is finely poised.
Sohil (114 points), Raghul (107) and Nayan Chatterjee (97) occupy the top three spots. Behind the trio are Yash (86), Vishnu Prasad (85) from Chennai and Fari-dabad's Manav Sharma (70).
Meanwhile, Bengaluru's Chirag Ghorpade (Momentum Motorsports) qualified for pole position in the Formula LGB 1300 category where Chennai-based Ashwin Datta has virtually clinched the title, enjoying a 50-point lead going into this weekend's double header.
Ashwin's closest rival Sohil, opted out of the two races.
Mumbai's Saurav Bandyopadhyay took pole position in the Volkswagen Ameo Class ahead of two guest drivers from South Africa, Tasmin Peper and Jeffrey Kruger.
The results (provisional, all eight laps unless mentioned): **MRF F1600 (carried over from round 4):** **Race-two:** 1. Yash Aradhya (Bengaluru) (13mins, 33.380s); 2. Raghul Rangasamy (Mamallapuram) (13:33.616); 3. Sohil Shah (Bengaluru) (13:39.154). **Race-3:** 1. Raghul Rangasamy (13:31.752); 2. Sohil Shah (13:33.747); 3. Vishnu Prasad (Chennai) (13:37.234). **Race-4:** Raghul Rangasamy (13:29.886); 3. Nayan Chatterjee (Mumbai) (13:35.915); 3. Yash Aradhya (13:37.252).



Zooming ahead: Raghul Rangasamy won Race 3 and 4 to put himself in contention for the title in the MRF F1600 category. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Duryodhan punches his way through India continues unbeaten run

BOXING WORLDS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA EKATERINBURG (RUSSIA)
National champion Duryodhan Singh Negi (69kg) claimed an exhausting 4-1 triumph over Armenia's Koryun Astoyan in his opening bout to enter the second round of the World men's boxing championships here on Friday.
The Indian will face Jordan's sixth seed Zeyad Eashash in the round-of-32 on Monday. Eashash got a bye in the opening round.
Astoyan seemed intimidated by the more muscular Indian, but wasn't lacking in effort. His punches were, however, not connecting as powerfully.
Running out of steam
The Armenian began to run out of steam in the second round and Negi took advantage to land a few combination blows.
Astoyan's defence was particularly weak and he tried to make up for it by



The better man: Duryodhan Singh Negi, right, claimed a hard-fought win over Koryun Astoyan. ■BFI/TWITTER

constantly being on the move. The strategy was tiring for both, but Negi endured it much better.
The final three minutes were a lopsided affair in which Astoyan was mostly left scurrying for cover even though one judge favoured him over the Indian.
Commonwealth Games silver-medallist Manish Kaushik (63kg) and Brijesh Yadav (81kg) had earlier won their opening bouts to enter the second round.

On the other hand, Asian champion Amit Panghal (52kg), and the Asian silver-winning duo of Kavinder Singh Bisht (57kg) and Ashish Kumar (75kg) got first-round byes.
The World Championship was meant to be an Olympic qualifier and features the revised eight weight categories (52kg, 57kg, 63kg, 69kg, 75kg, 81kg, 91kg, +91kg) earmarked for 2020 Tokyo Olympics, instead of the traditional 10 divisions.

Sourabh in semifinals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA HO CHI MINH CITY
Second seed Sourabh Verma stormed into the men's singles semifinals of the Vietnam Open BWF Tour Super 100 after beating local hero Tien Minh Nguyen 21-13, 21-18 in 43 minutes on Friday.

Lakshya on course
Earlier, Lakshya had dispatched Finland's Eetu Heino 21-17, 21-12, while Caljouw had beaten Rahul Bharadwaj 21-14, 24-22.

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A ND-NDE

ITF gives fresh dates for Davis Cup tie

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The International Tennis Federation (ITF) has conveyed to the All India Tennis Association (AITA) fresh dates for the Davis Cup tie against Pakistan in Islamabad.

The secretary general of AITA, Hironmoy Chatterjee, stated that the dates would be either November 29 and 30 or November 30 and December 1.

“The security situation will be reviewed on November 4 by the ITF, to decide whether the tie can be held in Islamabad or to be shifted to a neutral venue”, said Chatterjee.

Originally, the India-Pakistan tie was scheduled to be held in Islamabad on September 14 and 15. It got postponed owing to the prevailing tension in the region.

IN BRIEF



Murray accepts wild-card for Shanghai Masters

SHANGHAI
Former World No. 1 Andy Murray has accepted a wild-card into the Shanghai Masters to be held from October 6 to 13. The 32-year-old, who had hip surgery in January, will return to the ATP Tour in Zhuhai on September 23. Following that, he will participate in the Shanghai Masters. Murray is a four-time finalist and three-time winner at the Shanghai Masters. He, along with Novak Djokovic, has been in the final more often than any other player. In 2010, he became the tournament's youngest champion at the age of 23 years, five months and two days. That year he defeated Roger Federer in the event's shortest final – those stats still stand. IANS

Hong Kong Open postponed due to protests

HONG KONG
The WTA Hong Kong Open tournament, which was scheduled from October 5 to 13, has been postponed indefinitely because of the ongoing protests in the city. Hong Kong has for months been rocked by increasingly violent protests, triggered by an extradition bill. The Hong Kong Tennis Association and the WTA said they were in “active discussion” to find a later date for the tournament. IANS



Fury focused on Wallin match-up

LOS ANGELES
British heavyweight Tyson Fury faces Sweden's Otto Wallin in a non-title bout here on Saturday, aiming for a convincing win to boost his US following and stoke excitement ahead of a February 22 date with WBC heavyweight champion Deontay Wilder. Fury is heavily favoured against Wallin, a 28-year-old southpaw who is unbeaten in 20 fights. A decisive win for the 31-year-old ‘Gypsy King’ will keep the hype simmering for next year's rematch with Wilder. Fury, though, is adamant that he remains solely focused on the challenge posed by Wallin. AFP

FIFA bans jailed official Napout

LAUSANNE
Two weeks after former South American football official Juan Angel Napout was sentenced to nine years in prison by a US court for corruption, he was banned for life on Thursday by FIFA. Napout, at one time head of both the Paraguayan and South American (Conmebol) football federations and a FIFA vice-president, was found guilty by a New York court in April. The FIFA Ethics Commission suspended him for life. AFP

Sanjeev gets his due from Rio WC

I am very happy to get 1181 against my name, says the marksman

SHOOTING

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

Two-time Olympian Sanjeev Rajput has a lot more to cherish from the recent World Cup in Rio, apart from the silver medal and the Olympic quota in men's rifle 3-position event!

Sanjeev had protested a ‘zero’ registered for a shot during the kneeling position in the qualification stage. After deliberation for many minutes, the technical officials had asked him to repeat the shot and complete the last shot. So, he resumed and shot two 10s.

Later, when the officials checked the target manually, found that all the shots were grouped in the centre. So, they upheld his protest.

Tabulation error

However, there was an error in tabulating his scores, as the officials credited a nine for Sanjeev, perhaps for the missing shot, which brought



Delayed delight: The International Federation (ISSF) took its time in correcting Sanjeev Rajput's scores and did so a few days after the curtains had come down on the Rio World Cup. • AFP

the total to 1180.

Sanjeev had shot that score a few times including the Commonwealth Games. So, he was keen to get the new national record of 1181.

The Indian team promptly protested the score, even before the final.

The International Federation (ISSF) took its time in correcting the scores and did

so a few days after the curtains had come down on the Rio World Cup.

A member of the ISSF Technical Committee Wilhelm-Xaver Grill, who was

Saurabh claims air pistol gold

Rahi gets it right in women's 25-metre sports pistol

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Asian Games gold medallist, World junior and Youth Olympics champion, Saurabh Chaudhary came through a test of fire in the men's air pistol in the sixth National shooting selection trials at the Dr. Karni Singh Range here on Friday.

Qualifying in the seventh place with 580, three points behind the leaders Anmol Jain and Panikaj Kumar Sharma, Saurabh beat Sharvan Kumar by 1.5 point with a total of 245.4 in the final.

Amanpreet Singh, who had also shot 580 in qualification, hauled himself up to the third place, ahead of Karanav Bishnoi, Sumit Raman and Gaurav Rana who had all shot better in

qualification.

Sharvan Kumar, who shot 581 in qualification, went on to clinch the top spot among the juniors and the second spot among the youth behind Naveen.

In women's 25-metre sports pistol, Rahi Sarnobat set the record straight by topping the seventh trials with a 39-35 victory over Annu Raj Singh. Rahi, who had been beaten by Annu Raj earlier, once again shot a high score of 586 in qualification after having shot 588 in the earlier trial.

Anjum Moudgil topped the women's rifle prone event once again, with a score of 621.3.

The results: Men: 10m air pistol: 1. Saurabh Chaudhary 245.4 (580); 2. Sharvan Kumar

243.9 (581); 3. Amanpreet Singh 219.4 (580). **Juniors:** 1. Sharvan Kumar 246.3 (581); 2. Gaurav Rana 241.2 (581); 3. Mukesh Nelavalli 220.3 (579).

Youth: 1. Naveen 243.6 (579); 2. Sharvan Kumar 243.0 (581); 3. Adil Khan 218.8 (578).

50m rifle prone: 1. Tarun Yadav 624.0; 2. Chain Singh 622.0; 3. Kailash Chand 620.4. **Juniors:** 1. Niraj Kumar 617.2; 2. Indranil Basak 616.2; 3. Gurman Singh 615.0.

Women: 25m sports pistol: 1. Rahi Sarnobat 39 (586); 2. Annu Raj Singh 35 (582); 3. Baljinder Kaur 29 (572).

Juniors: 1. Ishika Singh 29 (567); 2. Neha 29 (564); 3. Arunima Gaur 24 (563).

50m rifle prone: 1. Anjum Moudgil 621.3; 2. V Srinithi Abirami 618.8; 3. Kajal Saini 618.4. **Juniors:** 1. Bhakti Bhaskar Khamkar 617.9; 2. Shirin Godara 617.3; 3. Kinnori Konar 615.0.

Gavaskar's gesture to the Greatest

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar will present some of his memorabilia to the proposed cricket museum at the Muhammad Ali Center in Louisville, Kentucky, USA.

Gavaskar met Lonnie Ali, widow of the ‘The Greatest’, and the Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer last Wednesday and discussed ways of establishing a cricket museum at the center.

The batting maestro had visited the boxing legend's home town in October 2017 to inaugurate a cricket



Visiting a shrine: Sunil Gavaskar with Lonnie Ali and Louisville mayor Greg Fischer at the Muhammad Ali Center. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ground named after him.

Louisville Sports Commission board member Jai Bokey and Fischer believe

that their vision of making Louisville a cricket destination in the US is finally taking shape.

Hima missing from initial WC list

The AFI has till September 16 midnight to include her in the two teams

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Hima Das' participation in the World Championships relay events became a matter of intense speculation on Friday after she was left out of the initial entries even though her name can still be added by September 16.

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) had on September 9 named seven women, including Hima, for the 4x400m relay and 4x400m mixed relay races. But it is learnt that Hima's name is missing from the initial entry of Indian women athletes for the two relays submitted by AFI for the September 27 to October 6 event in Doha.

Jisna Mathew, M.R. Pooamma, Revathi Veeramani, Subha Venkatesan, V.K. Vismaya and Ramraj Vithya have been entered for the 4x400m relay.

I have no information of Hima's latest condition as she is in Europe.

Adille Sumariwalla
AFI PRESIDENT

The 4x400m mixed relay list features Jisna, Poovamma and Vismaya along with Jacob Amoj, Muhammed Anas and Noah Tom Nirmal. The AFI has till September 16 midnight to include Hima in the two teams in place of another.

AFI president Adille Sumariwalla, meanwhile, said he was not aware of any decision on Hima's participation.

“I have no information of Hima's latest condition as she is in Europe. There is a doctor with the team in Europe and if she is not fully fit she will not take part (in the World Championships),” he said.

Strauss is ECB cricket committee chief



Andrew Strauss. • REUTERS

IAN'S
LONDON

Recently knighted former England captain Andrew Strauss has been appointed chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board's cricket committee.

The 42-year-old, who served as director of England cricket from 2015 to 2018, had stepped down to care for his wife, Ruth, who died of a rare form of lung cancer. In his new role, Strauss will monitor all levels of cricket in England and Wales to ensure a “thriving professional game at the heart of the sport”.

Will enter competitions only in 2020: Swapna

ABHISHEK MUKHERJEE
NEW DELHI

Swapna Barman has almost recovered from a back injury and meniscus tear and will start participating in competitions from 2020. The hep-athlete has revealed she has healed “95%” and is undergoing rehab daily.

“For the moment, I have recovered, but I haven't been able to get down to practise 100%. Right now, I'm able to walk and run 95%. Of course, there is the effect of the injury. I don't have any injury now, but I haven't been able to figure out whether the injuries could return after I start practising. However, at the moment, I'm fit,” she told *Sportstar*.



Looking ahead: Swapna is keen to win a medal for India. • AFP

“I won't participate in any competition in 2019. I wish to enter competitions only in 2020.

“If they are in India, well and good. If they are abroad, I will participate there.

Come what may, I will try and do well in the Olympics,

100%,” she added.

Never thought about it

In the city to launch the VRCT jacket by sports apparel brand adidas, Swapna said she hadn't imagined winning the Arjuna Award. “I had never thought about it. When the

All eyes on Bajrang and Vinesh

Reality check awaits India's top wrestlers at the World Championships

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NUR-SULTAN (KAZAKHSTAN)

A reality check awaits India's top wrestlers at the World Championships where they will chase not only glory but also Tokyo Olympics qualification, here from Saturday.

The run-up to the Worlds has been spectacular for Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat while decent results have provided a dose of confidence to a few others like Divya Kakran.

Bajrang triumphed at all four events he competed this season – Dan Kolov, Asian Championship Ali Aliev and Yasar Dogu – and will go into the Championships as the World No. 1 and top seed in 65kg.

For Vinesh, the season began in a new weight category as she moved up to 53kg from 50kg.

She took some time to settle in her new class but still made five finals, winning three golds – Yasar Dogu, Grand Prix of Spain and Poland Open.



Putting it to test: While skill is not an issue with Vinesh Phogat, she has admitted that holding off strong candidates for six minutes is a big challenge. • BISWARANJAN ROUT

While skill is not an issue with Vinesh, holding off strong candidates for six minutes is a big challenge, she admitted recently.

The big-stage competition will help her make an assessment on this count as she eyes a maiden Worlds medal. A last-minute elbow injury had forced her to opt-out of the Budapest Championships last year.

No Indian woman has ever won a gold at the Worlds, and Vinesh has it in her to end India's drought.

Bajrang has been in the form of his life but there is a chink in his armour – the weak leg defence – and it will surely be tested.

Only Sushil Kumar has won a World title in men's freestyle in India's wrestling history and Bajrang will be

Prajnesh in Challenger semifinals

Sumit Nagal reaches the last four with a win over Coria

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU
SHANGHAI

Top seed Prajnesh Gunneswaran stayed on course as he beat eighth seed Hiroki Moriya of Japan 66-4, 6-4 in the quarterfinals of the \$81,240 Challenger tennis tournament here on Friday.

In the semifinals, Prajnesh will play fourth seed Yasutaka Uchiyama of Japan.

Saketh, Divij exit

In the doubles semifinals, Saketh Myneni and Divij Sharan missed two match points and were beaten 13-11 in the super tie-break by Marc Polmans and Scott Puodziunas (Por) & Yasutaka Uchiyama (Jpn) bt Sriam Balaji & Vishnu Vardhan 7-6(1), 6-3.

\$81,240 Challenger, Istanbul, Turkey: Doubles (quarterfinals): Hugo Grenier (Fra) & Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Lu-

cas Miedler & Tristan-Samuel Weissborn (Aut) 4-6, 7-6(5), [12-10]; Andrey Golubev & Aleksandr Nedovyesov (Kaz) bt Rameez Junaid (Aus) & Purav Raja 4-6, 7-6(2), [10-3].

€ 46,600 Challenger, Banja Luka, Bosnia & Herzegovina: Singles (quarterfinals): Sumit Nagal bt Federico Coria (Arg) 6-2, 7-5.

\$15,000 ITF men, Cairo, Egypt: Doubles (semifinals): Artem Oganiesyan & Dimitriy Voronin (Rus) bt Lenny Hampel (Aut) & Aryan Goveas 6-4, 3-6, [13-11].

\$15,000 ITF women, Tabarka, Tunisia: Singles (quarterfinals): Anna Ureke (Rus) bt Bhuvana Kalva 6-0, 6-2.

\$15,000 ITF women, Cairo, Egypt: Doubles (semifinals): Yasmina El Sayed (Aus) & Daria Solovyeva (Rus) bt Angelika Shapovalova (Rus) & Avika Sagwal 6-4, 6-7(1), [10-8].

Rani at the helm

The five-match tour of England commences on September 27

HOCKEY

ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU

Forward Rani Rampal will lead the Indian women's hockey team in the five-match tour of England, which commences on Sept. 27.

Experienced midfielder Namita Toppo makes a comeback, after a lengthy injury layoff.

Teenager Sharmila Devi, who made her international debut in the recent Olympic Test event in Tokyo, has been named in the squad.

“The balance and mixture of players in our team remains the same from previous tournaments, as we go into an important phase in our objective of qualifying for the Tokyo Olympics 2020.

It is good to have Namita Toppo back in the squad for the first time since Asian Games 2018.

She has given us confi-



Rani Rampal. • PTI

dence in training to select her for the upcoming tour,” chief coach Sjoerd Marijne said.

The squad: Rani Rampal (Capt.), Savita Punia (Vice-capt.), Rajani Etimarpur, Deep Grace Ekka, Gurjit Kaur, Reena Khokhar, Salima Tete, Sushila Pukhrambam, Nikki Pradhan, Monika Malik, Neha Goyal, Lilima Minz, Namita Toppo, Vandana Katariya, Navneet Kaur, Lalremsiami, Navjot Kaur, Sharmila Devi.

gold medal at the Asian Games was confirmed, only then did it enter my mind. They had recommended Himma Das and me for the award. But it was good Himma won it in 2018; she had performed well. Then, I thought, ‘let's see if I get it in 2019,’ she said.

However, she said her joy of winning the Arjuna “would have doubled” had her coach Subhas Sarkar been handed the Dronacharya Award.

Swapna said she still didn't possess a government job as she wanted to focus on preparing for the Olympics. “There's only one life, so let me give it a shot. Now, I just want to win a medal for India,” she concluded.

keen to end India's wait for a second medal.

The 25-year-old himself has two World Championship medals but not a gold. His road though is full of challenges with the presence of Russian Gadzhimurad Rashidov and Bahrain's Haji Mohammed Ali in his category.

The squad: Men: Freestyle: Ravi Kumar (57kg), Rahul Aware (61kg), Bajrang Punia (65kg), Karan (70kg), Sushil Kumar (74kg), Jitender (79kg), Deepak Punia (86kg), Parveen (92kg), Mausam Khatri (97kg) and Sumit Malik (125kg).

Greco-Roman: Manjeet (55kg), Manish (60kg), Sagar (63kg), Manish (67kg), Yogesh (72kg), Gurpreet Singh (77kg), Harpreet Singh (82kg), Sunil Kumar (87kg), Ravi (97kg) and Naveen (130kg).

Women: Freestyle: Seema (50kg), Vinesh Phogat (53kg), Lalita (55kg), Sarita (57kg), Pooja Dhanda (59kg), Sakshi Malik (62kg), Navjot Kaur (65kg), Divya Kakran (68kg), Komal Bhagwan Gole (72kg) and Kiran (76kg).

Grateful to be alive: Froome

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Chris Froome admits he is “grateful to be alive” after a horrific high-speed crash into a wall in June that left the four-time Tour de France winner with multiple fractures.

However, despite still needing crutches to walk, Froome is targeting a record-equalling fifth Tour title and Olympic gold in Tokyo next year.

Such was the extent of his injuries, he initially feared his career, and not just his season, was over.

“I'm grateful to be alive. I'm grateful to be on the road to recovery, I'm grateful that I'm able to recover,” Froome told the Daily Telegraph. “Now I've got to give it everything.”